

# Words We Misspell

Ten Thousand Terms, Showing Their Correct Forms and Divisions as Used in Printing and Writing, with Rules Governing the Orthography of English Words

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TO  
W. V. K.  
PATIENT AND GENIAL COMPANION  
OF MANY  
STRENUOUS YEARS  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED  
WITH APPRECIATION,  
GRATITUDE, AND LOVE  
F. H. V.

## INTRODUCTION

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE once said that there is "one branch of learning without which learning itself can not be railed at with common decency, namely, spelling." If our spelling followed the pronunciation of words, it would in reality be a greater help to the student of language than the present uncertain and unscientific mode of writing. In explaining the whimsical, antiquated English orthography, the eminent etymologist Prof. WALTER SKEAT said that "we still retain much of the Elizabethan spelling, which at that period was retrospective, with a Victorian pronunciation." As a matter of fact, our present spelling violates both history and etymology. BULWER-LYTTON told us that it was impossible to find "a more lying, roundabout, puzzle-headed delusion concocted by the father of falsehood than that with which we confuse the clear instincts of truth as our accursed system of spelling." He wondered how it was possible for any system of education to flourish which begins with a falsehood so monstrous that our very sense of hearing flatly contradicts it.

According to an American critic—it may have been MARK TWAIN or, perhaps, ARTEMUS WARD—CHAUCER was a very fair poet, but the worst "speler" he had ever come across. Measured by the standard of our day Chaucer's spelling was original, probably because in his time there were no standards by which it could be regulated. Now, Chaucer is dead, but we have three standards of spelling to guide us—the American standard, the British standard, and the Simplified Spelling Board's standard.

Forty years ago an eminent scholar, Professor CHILD of Harvard, declared that "one of the most useful things just now is to break down the respect which a great foolish public has for established spelling." Things have changed since then, and if there are some of us who still "do not much care how anybody spells, so he spell different from what is established," as Professor Child expressed it, they are in the minority.

To-day good spelling is an indispensable accomplishment, and to spell badly is vulgar. It stamps its victim as ignorant and closes to him the doors of lucrative ap-



pointments. Correct spelling is an open sesame to public office and its emoluments, but a large percentage of the failures in Civil Service examinations is due to mistakes in spelling.

English is full of pitfalls for all, be they wise, near-wise, over-wise, or otherwise, and there are few persons who have not at some time in their lives been perplexed about the spelling of some word in their mother tongue. This is due in a large measure to the maze of symbols through which every one who studies English has to thread his way. The student of to-day, like Theseus of old, needs an Ariadne to guide him through the labyrinth. Therefore, it is not extraordinary that a man with a little Latin should be confused over words ending in *-ance* and *-ence* or *-ant* and *-ent* while the man who has none is not puzzled.

Who shall tell the former why he must write *precede*, *recede*, *secede*, and *proceed*, *exceed*, *succeed*? He may know why he should use *e* in "indolence" (*in + doleo*), "obedience" (*obēdien[t]-s*, ppr. of *obēdio*), "science" (*scien[t]-s*, ppr. of *scio*), but may be perplexed over the use of *a* in "admittance" (*ad + mitto*), "appearance" (*ad + pareo*), "sufferance" (*sub + fero*). In like manner, it may be perfectly clear to him that *e* is the correct letter to use in "permanent" (*per + maneo*), "indolent" (*in + doleo*), "reticent" (*reticeo*), but why he should use *a* in "attendant" (*attendo*), "defendant" (*defendo*), "tenant" (*teneo*) is not quite so clear. And there are approximately 450 words ending in *-ance* and *-ence*, and 650 that end in *-ant* and *-ent*! The correct use of the suffixes *-able* and *-ible* and *-er* and *-or* adds largely to the problems that have to be solved for there are at least 800 of the first group and as many more of the second.

Because English is preeminently the language of international communication, of civilization, of commerce, of religious freedom, of social development, and of progressive learning, it is necessary for all who make use of it to know how to speak it and how to write it correctly. They should learn to pronounce every sound clearly and accurately if they expect those to whom they speak to understand them. English, which was originally one of the easiest languages to learn, has in the course of years become one of the hardest, because the English spoken by one generation has differed from that spoken by another, and because the English written by one generation

in Norman French as in Anglo-Saxon, and the letters in Anglo-Saxon did not always represent the same sounds as in Norman French. In "The Making of English," Dr. HENRY BRADLEY points out that "many of the extant early Middle English manuscripts were written by persons who had never learned to spell their native language, but who rendered the words phonetically according to the French values of the letters." Ultimately the Norman French prevailed.

The revival of Latin and Greek learning which occurred after 1450 introduced a great many words from these languages which were spelled phonetically in the Old Latin way, and so arose the practise of spelling many English words as if they were Latin. Then came the printers who strove to bring order out of chaos, and after 1600 they adopted a system of spelling which established certain forms but left others to future generations. Since 1600 the pronunciation of English has changed very much, so that to-day the spelled form of the word differs widely from that of the spoken word. These are the reasons why we find that the letters of the English alphabet have so many different phonetic values.

A student of the English language can safely be taught to analyze a word into its sounds and to find the letters representing them with an alphabet that is strictly phonetic, but it is insulting to human intelligence to assure him that a sound in English is indicated exclusively by some particular letter.

Before any one can spell correctly in English, it is necessary for him to have a clear knowledge of the phonetic values of the letters and the combinations of letters that are used in the writing of English words. Any one who chooses to analyze the phonetic values of our alphabet can learn easily that the letter "a" is used for 9 different sounds; the letter "e" for 8; the letter "i" for 7; the letter "o" for 12; the letter "u" for 9, and the letter "y" for 3, so that 6 English vowels are used to indicate 47 separate and distinct phonetic sounds. But the vowels are not alone in this respect; some of the consonants are in the same class. "B" is used to indicate 2 sounds, including the silent uses; "c" for 6; "d" for 4; "f" for 3; "g" for 4; "h" for 3; "j" for 5; "k" for 2; "l" "m," and "n" 3 each; "p" for 2; "q" for 3; "r" for 2; "s" and "t" for 5; "v" and "w" for 2 each; "x" for 5; "y" for 2, and

"z" for 4. Thus, 21 of our consonants are used to indicate 70 different phonetic sounds. For this reason, it is extremely difficult to determine the correct pronunciation from the spelling of any English word, but it is much more difficult to ascertain the correct letters that should be used in spelling a word from analogy. Take *a*, for example. It represents a different sound in each of the following words—*fat*, *father*, *fate*, *any*, *wan*, *war*. So it is also with other letters.

The late Dr. ALEXANDER J. ELLIS pointed out that "c" in *mete* has not less than 40 equivalents in the language; that "a" in *mate* has 34; that "a" in *father* has 2; that "a" in *fall* has 21; that "e" in *met* has 36, and further declared that the word *scissors* could be spelled 58,365,440 different ways, and each could be justified by analogy. The word is composed of 6 elementary sounds; the first, "s," can be indicated in 17 different ways; the second, 36; the third, 17; the fourth, 33; the fifth, 10; the sixth, 17, so that the result is as follows:  $17 \times 36 \times 17 \times 33 \times 10 \times 17$ , and yields the number of different ways in which the word *scissors* can be spelled (see A. J. Ellis' "Plea for Phonetics").

Another of our much-abused letters is "u." Its sound in English is indicated by an extraordinary combination of letters. It stands for "eau" in *beauty*, "ue" in *cue* and *value*, "eu" in *euchre* and *pneumatic*, *eue* in that word itself, "ui" in *nuisance*, "ew" in *new*, "heu" in *rheumatism*, "hu" in *rhubarb*, "ieu" in *lieu*, "ough" in *through*, "u" in *unite*, and "ou" in *you*.

The pronunciation of the digraph "ow" is almost an unsolvable puzzle to the foreigner who comes to our shores. He finds it used for "ow" in *bow*, *mow*, *now*, *row*, *sow*; for "o" in *bow*, *mow*, *row*, *sow*, and he is scarcely to be blamed if he characterizes English as the most inconsistent, irrational, and senseless language he has met.

The excuse invariably offered by misspellers for their failing is that in its nature our language is so irregular in its spelling that it is full of orthographic riddles. There is a great deal of truth in this. Few foreigners can tell from the spoken word what combination of letters to use in spelling such words as *cough*, *dough*, *slough*, and *tough*. A large number of different combinations of letters are used to indicate one and the same sound, and again different sounds are indicated by the same combination

of letters. In 1869 a book was printed in England in which the author (whose name was WISE) showed that there were four thousand different ways in which the name *Shakespeare* could be spelled.

When the word *coffee* was first noted in English literature in 1598, it was spelled *chaoua*. In 1601 it was spelled *coffe*, and was described as "a certain Liquor which will soon intoxicate the brain." In 1623 Bacon spelled it *caphe*; Captain JOHN SMITH, the intrepid adventurer, in 1630, and LITHGOW, the thrifty native of Lanark, who walked over 36,000 miles, and then published his "Rare Adventures and Painful Peregrinations of Long Nineteen Years Travayles" in 1632, both spelled it *coffa*, and Blount in 1636, *couphe*. EVELYN was the first to use the form *coffee*. He notes in his "Memoirs" (1658) that "There came in my time to the College (at Oxford) one Nathaniel Conopios out of Greece. He was the first I ever saw drink *coffee*; which custom came not into England until thirty years after." When the Plague struck London (1665), Dr. GEORGE HARVEY recommended his patients "to drink *coffee* against the contagion." The prescription must have been effective, for we have been drinking coffee ever since.

Much faulty spelling is due to lack of education, but more to mispronunciation of words and to the manner in which their phonetic values are indicated in the dictionaries. The average business man at best is a careless speaker. He suffers from the fact that we live in an age of colloquial weakenings of both vowels and consonants. This is due to haste in speech, but the colloquial utterance has found its way into the best of our lexicons, with the result that instead of recording the speech of the most careful speakers of the day, the modern dictionary reflects the pronunciation of the man in the street, and defends this by stating that it records usage.

The pronunciation of that little word *yes*, mistreated by almost every one, is, however, still indicated correctly in the dictionaries of the day, but the time may not be far off when they will reflect usage, that usage which says *yah*, *yeh*, *yep*, and *yuh*, for these corruptions are to be heard on every side; alas, even from the mouths of the educated.

Words, in so far as the teaching of both their pronunciation and spelling are concerned, should not be considered collectively as parts of a sentence but separately as

individual entities, so that the mind may form a mental picture of every syllable of which they are composed. The correct value of each syllabic sound should be taught, and the matter of weakenings, which is more the result of careless voice-inflection than anything else, should be allowed to take care of itself. Take as an example the word "appeal." Syllabicated by the dictionary *ap-peal*', it is respelled for pronunciation *a-pēl*'; the "a" standing alone loses all the force of the strong consonant that follows it; thus "ap" becomes "a" ("uh"). Now if the dictionary would take under its protection the discarded "p" of the first syllable, and follow the same plan with other words throughout the language, it would help to raise the standard of our orthography as well as of our speech, both of which are at the present time pitifully low.

Faulty pronunciation is the mother of faulty spelling. As an illustration of what this may lead to, there is the story of the Western law partners who were stumped by the word *economical*. They installed in their office an unabridged dictionary to serve as the court of last resort in all matters of spelling, and soon afterwards one asked the other, "Is it *equet-* or *equinomical*?" The partner was not certain, so he countered with "Let's look in the dictionary." And they did, but after looking first under *eque-*, then under *equi-*, they faced each other, the first blurting out in his astonishment, "'Tain't therel Well, what do you think of a man that would get up a big dictionary like that, and not put in such a common word as *equinomical*?"

Just to show what could be done with English letter-values, the late Dr. WAYLAND, of Philadelphia, created the following alphabetic monstrosity—*ghoughphtheighttecau*. This, he explained, was the word *potato* spelled according to the following system: *gh* stands for *p* as in the final letters of *hiccough*; *ough* for *o* as in *dough*; *phth* for *t* as in *phthisis*; *eigh* for *a* as in *neighbor*; *tte* for *t* as in *gazette*, and *cau* for *o* as in *beau*. Result: *p-o-t-a-t-o*.

As an active supporter of all movements aimed at the amelioration of English orthography, the writer invites the attention of the skeptics to the following earlier forms of spelling that have been modified through the efforts of enthusiasts. Among these none ranks higher on this continent than BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, who in 1768 proposed a phonetic alphabet in which new symbols were added to

represent sounds which up to that time had no representation. Here are a few words given in the spelling that our grandfathers used, and that our fathers did also for a time, but the latter lived to see changes that are only perceptible to us when we investigate the subject:

aera	for era	foretel	for foretell
almanak	almanac	gulph	gulf
appretiate	appreciate	ideotic	idiotic
avaritious	avaricious	imprese	impress
bankrupcy	bankruptcy	kalendar	calendar
bishoprick	bishopric	noysome	noisome
chargable	chargeable	oeconomy	economy
chastizement	chastisement	phrenzy	frenzy
choaked	choked	rhetorick	rhetoric
choleric	choleric	streight	straight
criticize	criticise	sprey	spray
encyclopedy	encyclopedia	suspence	suspense
ondeavour	endeavor	swoln	swollen
excell	excel	synonymes	synonyms
xpence	expense	yokk	yolk

In the compiling of this book, the purpose kept in mind was to supply a guide to correct spelling that will serve persons engaged in commercial pursuits. It is not intended as a primer of spelling but rather as a guide to the words too frequently misspelled in business communications. The vocabulary embraces terms that have been collected by the writer during thirty years of an active business life devoted to the production of books, and includes many words selected from test-lists issued by the Civil Service Commission and several State universities.

Occasionally common misspellings are recorded in vocabulary place followed by the correct forms, while correct spellings followed by misspelled forms are recorded also in the same order. This plan was adopted for the reason that a person who does not know how to spell a word correctly is more than likely to look for the misspelling than for the correct spelling. Such a one on consulting this book will readily find the misspelled form and there learn how to spell it correctly. Of the misspellings recorded many approximate to the phonetic form. These may be the result of teaching pronunciation by respelling words phonetically, as is done by the dictionaries, or it may perhaps be due to the teaching of spelling by what is termed the word-picture method.

The reader may be surprised to find many words of simple spelling included in the following pages. This is

due to the fact that these words are included in test-lists for spelling issued by some of the leading State universities. The vocabulary is arranged in one alphabetical order, thus avoiding the intricacies of consultation involved in those works of a century or more ago in which the words included were grouped according to the sources of their origin or the number of syllables they contained.

In addition to the main vocabulary, rules for the guidance of the student are included, so that any one who wishes to memorize them can have in mind the principles that govern English spelling. As an aid to the correct division of words, each word has been syllabicated in such a way that the proper division may be seen at a glance. The writer hopes that the following pages may prove useful in imparting the correct spelling of words that are frequently misspelled, and of service to such persons as are occasionally perplexed by the riddles of English orthography.

Because there is much in our language that is purely arbitrary and fortuitous, we should all feel it incumbent on us to punctiliously observe the rules that govern its orthography—rules that establish the standard accepted by the great mass of the educated people of our time—for to-day bad spelling is the stamp of ignorance; it is the seal of vulgarity.

F. H. V.

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# WORDS WE MISSPELL

## RULES FOR SPELLING

*Spelling* is the art of using the correct letters in the forming of words. This art may be learnt by studying the rules that govern the subject and by noting the exceptions to those rules—for many of our words are not written according to analogy—or by consulting the dictionary. The following rules may prove of service to those persons who find themselves occasionally embarrassed and to others who wish to be accurate.

### On Silent and Other Letters

There are very few letters in English that in one combination or another are not silent. This applies to both vowels and consonants, but for some unexplained reason the subject of silent letters has received but scanty attention except from advocates of simplified spelling. Here the purpose is to explain as far as is possible what letters are silent, and to give words in which the silent letters are used in spelling but not heard in pronunciation. The list of words, however, is not to be taken as exhaustive, only typical examples being given.

1. *a* is silent in *bread* (bred); *coal* (cole); *dread* (dred); *each* (eech); *eagle* (eeGLE); *earl* (erl); *feat* (feet); *foal* (fole); *goad* (gode); *goal* (gole); *goat* (gote); *head* (hed); *health* (helth); *heap* (heep); *heat* (heet); *impeach* (impeeCH); *increase* (increese); *jealous* (jelous); *jean* (jeen); *knead* (kneed); *lead* (leed); *lead* (led); *load* (lode); *loan* (lone); *mead* (meed); *mean* (meen); *moan* (mone); *neap* (neep); *neat* (neet); *oak* (oke); *oakum* (okum); *oar* (or); *oat* (ote); *oath* (oth); *pea* (pee); *peace* (peece); *peach* (peeCH); *peak* (peek); *peal* (peel); *pearl* (perl); *poach* (poche); *queen* (queen); *queasy* (queezy); *read* (red); *realm* (relm); *road* (rode); *roar* (ror); *roach* (roche); *sea* (see); *seal* (seel); *seam* (seem); *sean* (seen); *seat* (sect); *soak* (soke); *soap* (sope); *soar* (sore); *tea* (tee); *teach* (teeCH); *teak* (teek); *teal* (teel); *team* (teem); *toad* (tode); *toast* (toste); *vain*



(vane); *veal* (veel); *weald* (weeld); *wealth* (welth); *ween* (ween); *weather* (wether); *weave* (weeve); *would* (wode); *yeast* (yeest); *zeal* (zeel).

2. *b* is silent after *m* in the same syllable; as *bomb*, *climb*, *comb*, *thumb*, but not in *rhomb*. It is silent before *t* when not in compounds, as, *debt*, *subtle*. Initial *b* is silent in *bedellium*.

3. *c* is silent following *s* and before *le*, as in *corpuscule*, *muscle*; before *t*, as in *clenophore*, *indict*, *vicuals*, and before *z*, as in *czar*, *czarina*, *czarevitz*, etc.

4. *d* is silent in *handkerchief*, *handsome*; in the first syllable of *Wednesday*, and also in the first syllable of *granddaughter*, *grandfather*, *grandmother*, as commonly pronounced.

5. *e* is silent when initial before *u*, as in *eugenics* (yu-jenics), *eulogy* (yuloji), *euphony* (yufoni), etc.; when medial, as in *forearm*, *forecast*, *foreign*. It is silent also when final following a consonant at the end of a syllable, as in *bade*, *bede* (a pickaxe), *curse*, *deme* (a Greek district), *dime*, *dome*, *done*, *purse*, *vice*, *vise*.

6. *f* in *hereof*, *of*, *thereof*, *whereof* has the sound of *v*.

7. *g* is silent when initial before *n*, as in *gnat*, *gnaw*, *gneiss*, *gnome*. It is silent also before *m* and *n* final, as in *phlegm*, *condign*, *sign*.

8. *h* is silent when initial only in a few English words, as *heir*, *honest*, *honor*, *hour*, and words derived from them. Formerly *h* was silent in *herb*, *hostler*, *humble*, *humor* but is now aspirated in these words. In certain English proper names, the *h* is not heard, as in *Durham*, etc.

Until recently, it was not the practise in England to pronounce the *h* in such words as, *what*, *where*, *which*, *who*, etc.

9. *i* is silent in combination with *ui*, as in *fruit*, *suit*, the *ui* being only a symbol of *u*. In the combinations *ai* and *ei*, as in *ail*, *veil*, the *i* is heard very faintly or not at all.

10. *k* is silent before *n*, as in *knell*, *knife*, *knot*, *knowledge*.

11. *l* is silent in *alm*, *almond*, *balk*, *balm*, *calf*, *calk*, *calm*, *calve*, *chaldron*, *chalk*, *could*, *falcon*, *folk*, *half*, *halser*, *halve*, *malmsey*, *palm*, *psalm*, *qualm*, *salmon*, *salve*, *should*, *solder*, *stalk*, *talk*, *walk*, *would*. It was formerly silent in *holm*, but is now pronounced by correct speakers.

12. Initial *m* is silent before *n*, as in *mnemonics*, *mnemonize*, *Mnemosyne*.

13. **n** is sometimes silent when final and following *m*, as in *condemn*, *contemn*, *damn*, *solemn*.

14. **o** is silent after *a* and *e*, as in *gaol* (jale); *jeopard* (jepard); and before *e* and *u* as in *people* (peepul); *sojourn* (sojurn).

15. **p** is silent when initial before *n*, *s*, *sh*, and *t*, as in *pneumatic*, *pneumonia*, *psalm*, *pseudonym*, *pshaw*, *psora*, *Psyche*, *psychology*, *ptarmigan*, *pterodactyl*, *ptochocracy* (government by paupers), *Ptolemy*, *ptomain*. It is silent also in *corps* (a body of troops), *cupboard*, *raspberry*, *receipt*. A century ago, it was silent also when medial and occurring between *m* and *t*, as in *empty*, *peremptory*, *presumptuous*, *redemption*, *sumptuous*.

16. **q** in English, commonly followed by *u* whether initial, as in *queen*, *question*; medial, as in *conqueror*, *equal*, *liquor*, or final, as in *antique*, *cheque*, *grotesque*, has the sound of *k* followed by *w* except when final; then it has the sound of *k*. When it occurs in words derived from the French, as *casque*, *coquette*, *croquet*, *questionnaire*, it has the sound of *k*.

17. **r** is silent in *farther*, which is commonly pronounced *fa'ther*. For its various phonetic values, see "A Desk-Book of 25,000 Words Frequently Mispronounced," page 715.

18. **s** following a vowel or a voiced consonant is generally pronounced *z*, but there are certain exceptions. Common substitutes for *s* in English are *c* before any high vowel, *ce* for final, *sc*, and *se*, as in *racy*, *race*, *scent*, *ense*.

19. **t** is silent after *f* and *s* when followed by *l*, *m*, and *n*, as in *castle*, *Christmas*, *often*. It is sometimes pronounced like *ch* when followed by *u*, as in *actuate*, *nature*, *picture*.

20. **u** is silent after *g* when hard and obscure when it occurs in a final syllable; as, *catalogue*, *dialogue*, *epilogue*, *guaranty*, *guard*, *guess*, *plague*, *prologue*, *rogue*, *tongue*.

21. **w** is silent when initial before *r*; as in *wrack*, *wraith*, *wrangle*, *wrap*, *wreck*, *write*, *wrote*, *wrung*, *wry*. It is silent before *h*, as in *who*, *whoever*, *whole*, *whom*, *whoop*, etc., and is silent also in the following words, *answer*, *awry*, *sword*, *toward*, *two*.

22. **x** is sometimes silent when final, as in *billet-doux*, and sometimes heard, as in *box*. It is sometimes pronounced like *z*, as in *Xantippe*.

### Spelling

**Compound words** even if they change the position of the principal accent always retain the double letter, as in *broad'-brimmed*; *duck'-legged*; *grass'-hopper*; *hare'-lipped*; *half'-witted*; *kid'napper*.

Some writers challenge the desirability of doubling the *p* in such words as *kidnapper*, *worshipper*, etc. Both forms are in good use.

**Consonants are doubled** before suffixes in monosyllabic words ending in a single consonant, preceded by a single vowel, before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *bab*, *babbed*; *bib*, *bibbed*; *bob*, *bobbed*; *dab*, *dabbed*; *rip*, *ripped*; *rob*, *robbed*. Accented final syllables follow the same rule, as *a-bel'*, *a-bel'tor*; *ab-hor'*, *ab-hor'rent*; *ac-quit'*, *ac-quit'tal*, *ac-quit'tance*; *bag*, *bag'gage*; *be-gin'*, *be-gin'ner*; *can*, *can'ner*; *com-mit'*, *com-mit'ter*, *com-mit'ting*, *commit'tee*; *con-cur'*, *con-cur'ence*; *dip*, *dip'per*; *fop*, *fop'pish*, *fop'pery*; *man*, *man'nish*; *re-mit'*, *re-mit'tance*; *squat*, *squat'ter*, *squat'ting*; *swim*, *swim'mer*, *swim'ming*; *thin*, *thin'ner*, *thin'nest*.

**EXCEPTIONS:** (1) When the accent in the derivative is carried further back, the consonant usually remains single as, *re-fer'* *ref'er-ence*; *pre-fer'*; *prefer-ence*, but *prefer'ring*, *refer-able*, and also *re-fer'rible*.

(2) Syllables ending in *x* do not double the final letter, as *box*, *box-es*, *box-ing*.

(3) The derivatives of the word *gas*, except *gassed*, *gassing*, and *gassy*, are written with but one *s*, as *gaseous*.

**Final consonants**, when single and preceded by a long vowel, are followed by a silent *e*, as *anecdote*, *decade*, *profile*. Many words ending with short vowels also have final *e* silent. A single consonant when preceded by a single short vowel commonly drops final *e*, as *utensil*, not *utensile*.

**Final consonants are doubled** in dissyllabic words before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as, *cancel*, *cancellation*; *crystal*, *crystallization*; *excel*, *excellence*; *tranquil*, *tranquillity*.

**EXCEPTIONS:** *benefit*, *benefited*; *prefer*, *preference*; *transfer*, *transferable*.

**Final consonants are doubled** in monosyllabic words ending in *f*, *l*, *s*, or *t*, when these are immediately preceded by a single vowel; as *cliff*, *bell*, *brass*, *butt*.

**EXCEPTIONS:** *clef, if, of, sol, as, gas, has, his, is, thus, us, was, yes*, but the monosyllable *all* drops one *l* in *almighty, already, also, altogether, always* retaining both in such compounds as *all-sided, allspice*, etc.

**Final Consonants** are not doubled when any word of one syllable ends with another consonant than *f, l, or s* (see these letters), as *bar, bin, cab, cat, cup, cur, cut, dip, dog, fix, hit, mob, nod, sum, sun, whiz*.

**EXCEPTIONS:** *abb, add, burr, butt, buzz, ebb, egg, err, fizz, fuzz, inn, jagg, mitt, odd, purr, ragg*. The words *abb* and *add* are not to be confused with *ab-* (*from*), and *ad-* (*to*) used as prefixes. There are also the words *but, in, jag, and rag* distinct from the words given above that conform to the rule.

**Derivatives** that are formed by adding a suffix beginning with a vowel, do not double the final consonant when it is preceded by a diphthong or digraph, as *avoid-able, congeal-able*, nor when the accent falls on any syllable other than the last, as *peril-ous*, nor when two distinct consonants end the word, as *detach-able*.

In derivative words formed from roots ending with silent *e* following *c* or *g*, the *e* is commonly retained before *a* or *o*, as *agree-able, courage-ous*.

**Digraphs** are formed by combining with a short vowel an additional one which may be placed before or after it, such as *ea* as in *each*, *ei* as in *either*, *ai* as in *aisle*, *ay* as in *aye*, *oa* as in *boat*, *uy* as in *guy*. Of these combinations some are pronounced like the long sound of the first vowel, particularly the digraphs *ai, ea, and oa*.

## Suffixes and Special Letters

**-able, -ible:** *-able* is used after verb-stems ending in *a*; *-ible* is a suffix of adjectives from Latin stems not *a*-stems. In some ill-formed modern words *-able* has the power of "full," as *veritable* (full of truth), *charitable* (full of charity), *profitable* (full of profit), *sociable* (full of companionship), etc. Of these combinations four-fifths of the English words end in *-able*. The spelling of words derived from the Latin depends upon the Latin root. Words derived from the Anglo-Saxon are always spelled *-able*. See **-IBLE**.

**-ance, -ancy.** Suffixes used in forming from adjectives in *-ant* and from verbs, nouns denoting action, quality,

or state, as *forbearance, perseverance; brilliance, brilliancy; constant, constancy; hesitant, hesitancy; insolvent, insolvency.*

Be careful to distinguish from *-ence*, because words with *-ance* and *-ence* approximate phonetically in colloquial speech. See *-ENCE*.

*-ant*. Suffix used to denote the act or process of doing what is denoted by the stem; used to form adjectives with nearly the meaning of the participle, as *assistant, combatant, extravagant, luxuriant, militant*. See *-ENT*.

*-ar*. A suffix designating "pertaining to, like etc." and pronounced as a weak vowel; it is used in such words as *regular, scholar, singular*. As a contraction of *-ayr* or *-er*, refashioned in the imitation of *-ar*, it is used in *vicar*, from Middle English *viker*, and *vicary*. *-ar* is used also as a form of *-er*, as in *beggar*.

*-ary*. A suffix used to denote (1) adjectives connected with or pertaining to, as *elementary, honorary, secondary*; (2) in nouns (a) a person employed or engaged in, as *antiquary, apothecary, secretary*; (b) a thing connected with or placed dedicated to, as *diary, dictionary, sanctuary, synonymary*; (3) character (through modern French *-aire*) as *military, salutary*. Compare *-ERY*; *-ORY*.

*c*. This letter has two sounds, one hard, the other soft. *C* is *hard* like *k* before *a*, *o*, or *u*, as *cake, cork, curd*, or at the end of a syllable when not followed by *i* or *e*, as *music*, and before any consonant excepting *h*, as *claim, craft*. *C* is *soft* like *s* when preceding *e*, *i*, or *y*, as *cedar, cider, cyclone*.

Monosyllabic words ending with the sound of *k* where *c* follows a vowel commonly take *k* after the *c*, as *back, beck, click, clock, cluck*.

Words having more than one syllable with the sound of *k* where *c* follows a vowel or other vowels than *i* or *ia* commonly take *k* after the *c*, as *attack, barrack, cocksure, pucker*.

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *havoc*, but *havocked, hawcking; picnic*, but *picnicked, picnicking; shellac*, but *shellacked, shellacking*.

Words having more than one syllable that end with the sound of *k* in which *c* is preceded by *i* or *ia* are commonly written without the final *k*, as *mimic, maniac*.

*-cede, -ceed, and -sede*. These suffixes being pronounced alike in speech care must be taken to distinguishing them from one another in spelling. There are

several *-cede's*—*accede, concede, intercede, precede, recede, and secede*; but three *-ceed's*—*exceed, proceed, and succeed*; and only one *-sede*—*supersede*.

**ck** (*final*). English monosyllables and verbs do not end with *c* but take *ck* instead of double *c*, as in *back, deck, rack, rock, wreck*. Words derived from classical languages discard the *k*, as in *italic, maniac, music, picnic, public*.

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *arc* (the part of a circle); *lac* (a gum or resin); *sac*, and *talc*. Seventy-five years or more ago, it was suggested that in words of this kind *k* be substituted for *c*; thus, *disc* would become *disk*; *marc* would become *mark*; *talc* would become *talck*; *zinc* would become *zink*, but only two of these have found favor—*mark* and *disk*.

**e** (*silent*) is retained in words formed from root-words ending with silent *e* when the suffix begins with a consonant, as *abate, abatement; advance, advancement; amaze, amazement; care, careful; dire, direful; change, changeless; engage, engagement; fine, finely; grave, gravely; name, namesake; pale, paleness*.

When silent *e* is preceded by another vowel excepting *e*, notwithstanding that the suffix begins with a consonant, the *e* is dropped from the derivative, *due, duly; true, truly; whole, wholly; argue, argument; abridge, abridgment; acknowledge, acknowledgment; awe, awful; judge, judgment; lodge, lodgment*.

When a root-word ending with an *e* takes a suffix beginning with a vowel the final *e* is generally dropped; as, *abate, abatable; amuse, amusing; bride, bridal; cease, ceasing; come, coming; force, forcible; lame, lamable; love, lovable, loved, loving; sense, sensible*.

EXCEPTIONS to this rule are *advantageous, courageous, canoeing, changeable, dyeing, fleeing, hoeing, shoeing, toeing, mileage, pieing, singeing, tingeing, twingeing*.

**-ed, -ing**. Words ending with a silent vowel, as *bathe, believe, bide, bore, bubble*, drop the final *e* before the participial endings *-ed* and *-ing*, as *bath-ed, bath-ing, believ-ed, believ-ing; bid-ed, bid-ing; bor-ed, bor-ing; bubbl-ed, bubbl-ing*.

**ei**. This digraph is pronounced (1) as *e* in *deceive, receive*, etc.; (2) as *e* in "they" in *eight, freight, neighbor, rein*, and *veil*; (3) as *e* in "pen" in *heifer*, and (4) as *i* in "pin" in *foreign, forfeit, surfeit*.

**ei and ie**. When *ei* or *ie* has the sound of *e* in *me*, the usage may be distinguished as follows:—

After *c* the combination is *ei* as, *ceiling*, *perceive*, *receipt*, *receive*. After another letter than *c* the combination is *ie* as, *believe*, *grieve*, *reprieve*. Compare 1E.

EXCEPTIONS: *ancient*, *deficient*, *efficient*, *financier*, *leisure*, *proficient*, *seize*, *species*, and *sufficient*.

**-ence, -ency.** Suffixes used to form words denoting action, quality, or condition; as, *dissidence*, *evidence*, *excellence*, *prominence*, *residence*; *complacence*, *complacency*, *constituency*, *despondence*, *despondency*, *frequency*, *frequency*.

**-ent.** Suffix used to form adjectives denoting quality, or nouns of agency, as *adjacent*, *absorbent*, *fraudulent*, *innocent*, *opulent*, *pestilent*, *president*, *student*. See -ANT.

**-er.** A suffix used to form (1) nouns of agency, as in *blotter*, *cutter*, *poker*, *reaper*; (2) comparative degrees of adjectives and adverbs, as *harder*, *sooner*, *warmer*, or as a substitute for final *e*, as in *late*, *later*, etc.; or when final *y* changes to *i*, as in *earlier*, etc.; (3) frequentative adverbs, as *quaver*, *shudder*. It denotes (1) condition, place of dwelling, etc., as *prisoner*, *villager*, *New Yorker*, etc., and (5) a person, principal or agent, as *checker*, *gardener*, *interpreter*, *singer*, etc., or when the original noun ends with a *w*, as *lawyer*, *sawyer*, etc., or with the addition of an *i*, as *brasier*, *collier*, etc. See -OR.

**-ery.** A suffix used in nouns of French origin, and by analogy in other cases, denoting a business, place of business, place where things are collected, or the things themselves, as *confectionery*, *hosiery*, *stationery*. See -ARY; -ORY.

**f** (*final*) when preceded by a single vowel is doubled in words of one syllable; as, *chaff*, *gaff*, *staff*; *feffe* (obsolete form of *feoff*); *off*; *cliff*, *skiff*, *stiff*, *tiff*, *whiff*; *cuff*, *luff*, *muff*, *snuff*, *stuff*.

EXCEPTIONS: *clef*, *if*, *of* are written with only one *f*.

When final *f* immediately follows a diphthong or double vowels it is seldom doubled; as, *deaf*, *leaf*; *brief*, *briefer*, *briefest*; *grief*; *coif*. EXCEPTION: *quaff*.

**full.** When this word is used as a suffix, it drops one *l* and is changed to *-ful*; thus, *cupful* (not *cupfull*), *mouthful*, *spoonful*, and the plural is formed by the addition of *s*, as *cupfuls*, *mouthfuls*, *spoonfuls*.

**g.** This letter is *hard* before the vowels *a*, *o*, *u*, and *i*, as in *garden*, *God*, *good*, *gum* and *gift*. It is sometimes *hard* also before *e* as in *get*. It is always *hard* before any consonant as in *glove*, *glum*, *grieve*, *grove*, *grave*.

Final *g* is usually *hard* in its root-word and derivatives formed from that word, as, *beg*, *beggar*; *big*, *bigger*; *fog*, *foggy*; *keg*, *kegger*. A few words ending in *g*, double the final consonant to prevent its being pronounced like *j*, as *humbug*, *humbugging*.

*g* is *soft* before *e* in *badger*, *edge*, *gem*, before *i* in *gin*, *ginger* and *magic*, and before *y* in *gymnasium*, etc.

**-ible.** A suffix of adjectives derived from Latin stems not *a*-stems, an equivalent to **-able** of English adjectives, as *credible*, *edible*, *flexible*, *forcible*, *horrible*, *legible*, *risible*, *sensible*, *terrible*, etc. Compare **-ABLE**.

**ie.** This digraph is usually pronounced as *e* in *bee*, or *i* in *machine*, but also has the sound of *e* in *moment*, as in *patient*, and *i* as in *pin*, as in *sieve* (*sv*), and of *i* in *pine*, as in *pie*. Followed by *u* or *v*, it takes the diphthongal sound heard in *purlieu* and *view*. Compare **ei**.

**-ing.** See under **-ED**.

**-ion, -sion.** A suffix denoting action, **-ion** indicates the action of the root-verb; as, *affliction*, the state of distress; *question*, the act of inquiring; *temptation*, the act of tempting, or state of being tempted. **-ion** is used sometimes with *s* before it, or sometimes with *t*, as a suffix denoting an act of, state of being; as, *ascension*, the act of going up; *collision*, the act of colliding; *vision*, the act or power of seeing; *ambition*, the act of aspiring.

**-ise, -ize, and -yze.** The second of these forms is the more common in the United States, but words that have been drawn from the French and all formed by the use of prefixes are invariably spelled with **-ise**: *advertise*, *advise*, *a-rise*, *com-prise*, *des-pise*, *de-vice*, *ex-cise*, *franchise*, *sur-mise*; *author-ize*, *cap-size*, *civil-ize*, *criticize*, *empha-size*, *sur-prize*. See the vocabulary for other words, the majority of which, however, are spelled with a *z*.

With reference to the words recorded by the dictionaries as ending in **-ise** it is necessary to point out that this suffix has frequently been used by persons unfamiliar with the correct form **-ize**. Sir James A. H. Murray in his "New English Dictionary on Historical Principles," records the **-ise** forms of words in the vocabulary of his work only when these are sanctioned by the best usage. When not so sanctioned, the use is recorded but the variant or erroneous spelling is not included in the vocabulary. Some words derived from the Greek are spelled **-yze**; as, *analyze*, *paralyze*.



EXCEPTIONS: (1) *Catechise*, *chastise*, *exercise*, *exorcise*, and *merchandise* are usually written with *s*; and *analyze*, *assize*, *detonize*, *overprize*, and *recognize* and *size*, with *z*. How many more exceptions there are to this rule it is difficult to say. (2) *Prize*, a thing seized, and *prize*, a reward, or as a verb, to esteem. *Apprise*, to inform, and *apprize*, to value, or appraise, are written either way without distinction of meaning.

**-ive.** This suffix is commonly pronounced *-iv* and is used to denote (1) doing or serving to do, as *affirmative*, *derivative*, *exclusive*; (2) relation or belonging to, as *consecutive*, *representative*; (3) having the character or nature or quality of, as *excessive*, *lucrative*; (4) predisposition to (some action), as *abortive*, *decisive*, *incisive*, *negative*.

This suffix commonly follows words ending in *t* or *s*.

1, when *final* and not preceded by a single vowel is doubled in words of one syllable, as in *ball*, *bell*, *bill*, *boll*, *bull*, etc. See LL (below).

EXCEPTIONS: *bul* (a flounder); *nul* (for *no* in law); *sol* (for *sou* or *sun*), and *sal* (for *salt*, in chemistry).

The words *annul*, *until*, *distil*, *extol*, and *instil*, are correctly spelled with one *l* for *null*, *till*, and *still* are not their roots, but rather contractions of later growth.

1, when *final* and not preceded by a single vowel, or when the accent is not on the last syllable of a word, is not doubled when the syllable is added, as *baul*, *bailing*; *coil*, *coiling*, *dial*, *dialing*, *dialist*; *foil*, *foiling*; *oil*, *oiling*; *peril*, *perilous*; *real*, *realize*, *realist*; *toil*, *toiling*.

EXCEPTIONS: Words ending in *el* when the final *l* is doubled before another vowel, as in *duel*, *duellist*; *gravel*, *gravelling*; *marvel*, *marvellous*; *revel*, *revelling*. In *travel*, the word *traveler* is spelled with one or two *l*'s, *traveler*, *traveller*—the first spelling is that preferred in the United States; the second in Great Britain. The word *parallel* forms its derivatives *paralleled*, *paralleling*.

The preterits, participles, and derivative-nouns of some verbs ending in *-al*, *-il*, or *-ol* unaccented, as *carol*, *cavil*, *equal*, *gambol*, *marshal*, *pencil*, *pistol*, *vial*, are commonly doubled, notwithstanding that some authorities do not conform to this practise—*carol*, *carolled*, *carolling*; *cavil*, *cavilled*, *cavilling*; *equal*, *equalled*; *gambol*, *gambolled*, *gambolling*; *marshal*, *marshalled*, *marshalling*; *pencil*, *pencilled*, *pencilling*; *pistol*, *pistolled*, *pistolling*; *vial*, *vialled*, *vialling*. See LL (below).

**ll**, *final*, occurs in words of one syllable, as in *ball*, *call*, *fall*, *gall*, *hall*, etc., *bell*, *cell*, *fell*, *hell*, *knell*, etc., *bill*, *dill*, *fill*, *gill*, *hill*, *jill*, *kill*, etc., *boll*, *doll*, *knoll*, *loll*, etc., *bull*, *drull*, *full*, *gull*, *hull*, etc.

**ll**, *medial*, occurs in dissyllabic words; as, *callous*, *colleague*, *college*, *fallible*, *malleable*, etc.

**ll**, *initial*, occurs in foreign words or proper names, as *llama*, *llano*, *Llandudno*, *Llewellyn*, *Lloyd's*, etc.

**-ly**. When this suffix is added to a monosyllable ending in *l*, the final *l* of the root word is retained, as in *cool*, *coolly*; *civil*, *civilly*; *cruel*, *cruelly*; *oral*, *orally*; *real*, *really*; *wool*, *woolly*. When it is added to a trisyllabic word ending with a single *l* both *l's* are retained; as, *beautiful*, *beautiful-ly*.

**-or**. This suffix is used to form (1) nouns of agency, as *competitor*, *director*, *governor*, *operator*, *predecessor*, *successor*; (2) abstract and concrete nouns, as *ancestor*, *behavior*, *elevator*, *inferior*, *visitor*. Compare **-ER**.

**-ory**. This suffix is used with nouns and adjectives of Latin origin, in nouns signifying place, as *dormitory*, *refectory*, *oratory*, *purgatory*; in adjectives, signifying relating to, of the nature of, etc., as *amatory*, *depository*, *lavatory*, *repository*. Compare **-ARY**; **-ERY**.

**-ous**. This suffix is used to denote possession or presence of a quality in any degree, commonly in fulness or abundance, as *ambiguous*, *amphibious*, *arduous*, *barbarous*, *boisterous*, *conscious*, *herbaceous*, *indigenous*, *obnoxious*, *obvious*, *odorous*.

In derivatives formed by adding a suffix that begins with a vowel, when the stress falls on any other syllable than the last, the final consonant is not doubled, as *dan'ger-ous*, *per'i-lous*.

**s**, *final*, when preceded by a single vowel is doubled in words of one syllable, as in *bass*, *class*; *less*, *mess*; *bliss*, *hiss*, *kiss*; *loss*, *moss*; *fuss*, *muss*, *puss*.

EXCEPTIONS: as, *gas*, *has*, *his*, *is*, *pus*, *this*, *thus*, *us*, *was*, *yes*. (See Plurals of Nouns.) Also, the inflections of verbs; as, *has*, *is*, *was*, *loves*, etc.

**x** as the equivalent of *ks* is never doubled; thus, *box*, *boxer*, *boxing*; *mix*, *mixer*, *mixing*. The only place in which this letter is ever doubled is when it is used as a Roman numeral and stands for figures as: *XX*=20; *XXX*=30.

**y**. (1) When a root-word ends in *y* which is preceded by a consonant, the final *y* is changed into *i* when a suffix

is added whether or not that suffix begins with a vowel or a consonant, as, *ally, allies; beauty, beautiful; busy, business; century, centuries; duty, dutiful; injury, injurious; mercy, mercies; merry, merriest; pity, pities; sky, skies; spicy, spicier.*

EXCEPTIONS: *annoy, annoyance, annoyer, annoying; baby, babyhood; boy, boyish, boyhood; buy, buyer; carry, carrying; city, city-like; destroy, destroyer, destroying; dry, dryly; enjoy, enjoying; gray, grayish; hurry, hurrying; joy, joyful; lady, ladyship; marry, marrying; secretary, secretaryship; shy, shyness; valley, valleys.*

(2) *y* following *t* changes to *e* when *-ous* is added; as, *beauty, beauteous.*

EXCEPTIONS: Adjectives of one syllable ending in *y* preceded by a consonant ordinarily retain the *y*; as *dry, dry-ly; shy, shy-ly.* See section (1).

*y* final remains unchanged in the plurals of nouns when the *y* is preceded by a vowel and the plural is formed by the addition of *s*; as, *day, days; donkey, donkeys; monkey, monkeys; guy, guys.*

## RULES GOVERNING THE PLURALS OF NOUNS

**I. Regular Plurals.** The plurals of English nouns are regularly formed by adding *s* or *es* to the singular; as, *arm, arms; bee, bees; boy, boys; gas, gases; metropolis, metropolises.* Final *s* after a vowel, or after any consonant except *c* (*= k*), *f*, *k*, *p*, and *t*, has the sound of *z*.

The distinction between *s* and *es* is as follows: (a) When a noun ends with a sound that will unite euphonically with the sound of *s* or of *z*, the plural is regularly formed by simply adding *s* to the singular; as *ape, apes; block, blocks; cow, cows; dog, dogs,* etc. (b) When a noun ends with a sound that will not unite euphonically with the sound of *s* or of *z* the letter *e* is added before the *s*, forming an additional syllable, *es*, unless the noun itself ends in *e*, in which case the *s* is added to the *e*, and forms the additional syllable; as, *box, boxes; church, churches; cross, crosses; edge, edges.*

**II. Variations and Exceptions.** 1. Nouns ending in *o* preceded by a vowel form the plural regularly in *s*; as, *bamboo, bamboos; cameo, cameos.* Nouns ending in *o* pre-

ceded by a consonant usually add *es* to form the plural, but without increasing the number of syllables; as, *cargo*, *cargoes*; *motto*, *mottoes*; *negro*, *negroes*; *mosquito*, *mosquitoes*; *potato*, *potatoes*; *hero*, *heroes*, etc. A few such nouns, especially some not fully Anglicized, take *s* to form the plural; as, *canto*, *cantos*; *solo*, *solos*; *zero*, *zeros*. For nouns ending in *o* of foreign derivation retaining their foreign form in the plural, see III, 4.

2. Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel form the plural by simply adding *s* to the singular form; as, *alley*, *alleys*; *buoy*, *buoys*; *donkey*, *donkeys*; *monkey*, *monkeys*; *valley*, *valleys*. Nouns terminating in *y* preceded by a consonant change *y* into *i* and add *es* to form the plural; as, *ally*, *allies*; *berry*, *berries*; *century*, *centuries*; *dairy*, *dairies*; *enemy*, *enemies*; *fly*, *flies*; *lady*, *ladies*; *spy*, *spies*. The word *money* takes either of two forms, *moneys* or *monies*.

**III. Irregular Plurals.** 1. Certain nouns from the Anglo-Saxon retain a plural form very different from the singular, often changing the chief vowel sound from one that is broad or open to one narrower or closer; as, *child*, *children*; *foot*, *feet*; *goose*, *geese*; *louse*, *lice*; *man*, *men*; *mouse*, *mice*; *ox*, *oxen*; *tooth*, *teeth*; *woman*, *women*. The following have two forms in the plural: *brother*, in ordinary use *brothers*, but in archaic or solemn style *brethren*; *die*, in most senses *dies*; but as denoting the marked cubes for games *dice*; *pea*, now most commonly *peas*, but also, especially as denoting a quantity collectively, *pease*; *penny*, for coins by number *pennies*, but for amount of value *pence*.

2. A few nouns retain the singular form unchanged in the plural; as, *deer*, *fish*, *hose*, *moose*, *quail*, *perch*, *series*, *species*, *sheep*, *vermin*. Some such nouns, especially the names of animals, have also an alternative plural regularly formed; as, *fish*, *fish* or *fishes*; *quail*, *quail* or *quails*, etc. In such cases there is usually a distinction in meaning or usage; *fish*, for instance, denoting a number or quantity as a whole, and *fishes* referring more distinctively to the individuals. Thus in *John* xxi, 10, 11, we find, "Bring of the *fish* [the total] which ye have now caught. Simon Peter . . . drew the net to land full of great *fishes* [noted and counted one by one], a hundred and fifty and three." So one might say, "The pond is full of *perch*," or, "This fish is

one of the *perches*"; i.e., of the various genera or species included under the name "perch."

3. Most nouns ending in *f* or *fe* form the plural regularly by simply adding *s*; as, belief, *beliefs*; chief, *chiefs*; muff, *muffs*; puff, *puffs*; strife, *strifes*. But a number of nouns ending in *f* or *fe* change *f* into *v* and add *es* in the plural, without increasing the number of syllables, notably: beef, *beeves*; calf, *calves*; elf, *elves*; half, *halves*; knife, *knives*; leaf, *leaves*; life, *lives*; loaf, *loaves*; self, *selves*; sheaf, *sheaves*; shelf, *shelves*; thief, *thieves*; wharf, *wharves*; wife, *wives*; wolf, *wolves*. The noun "staff" may have the regular plural *staffs*, or, more commonly, *staves* (preferably pronounced stāvz.) Compounds of "staff" form the plural regularly in *s*, as *flagstaffs*.

4. Many words of foreign derivation retain the plural form peculiar to the languages from which they are severally derived; as, addendum, *addenda*; antithesis, *antitheses*; arcanum, *arcana*; automaton, *automata*; axis, *axes*; basis, *bases*; crisis, *crises*; criterion, *criteria*; datum, *data*; genus, *genera*; memorandum, *memoranda*, etc. Many nouns of this class have also a plural of the regular English form; as ambo, *ambos* or *ambones*; appendix, *appendixes* or *appendices*; beau, *beaus* or *beaux*; cherub, *cherubs* or *cherubim*; excursus, *excursus* or *excursuses*; focus, *focuses* or *foci*; hippopotamus, *hippopotamuses* or *hippopotami*; index, *indexes* or *indices*, etc. The noun "genius," denoting exalted intellectual power or a person possessing it, becomes *geniuses* in the plural, whereas "genius," a tutelary spirit of the like, has its plural *genti*.

IV. **Plurals of Compounds.** Compounds commonly form the plural regularly by adding *s* or *es* to the complete word; as, armful, *armfuls*; cupful, *cupfuls* (see -FUL); cut-throat, *cutthroats*; football, *footballs*; footstep, *footsteps*; handful, *handfuls*; mantrap, *mantraps*; spoonful, *spoonfuls*. The first element of a compound composed of two nouns, even when it refers to a whole class of things, is never pluralized. We say *bookkeeper*, *fox-hunter*, *hair-brush*, not *bookskeeper*, *foxes-hunter*, or *hairs-brush*. If the last element of the compound forms its plural irregularly, the same form usually appears in the plural of the compound; as, *footman*, *footmen*. Nouns that end in *-man*, but are not compounds, form the plural regularly by adding *s*, as German, *Germans*; Mussulman, *Mussulmans*. But com-

pounds in which the principal word forms the first element change that element to form the plural; as, father-in-law, *fathers-in-law*; son-in-law, *sons-in-law*.

**V. Common Errors in the formation of Plurals.** As violations of the principles of grammatical construction in the use of the plural, these are exceedingly numerous. They most commonly arise from the violation of any one of the following rules:

1. In the *grammatical inflection* of words.

(1) See Rule IV. *Courts martial* and *cousins german* are not exceptions to the rule given above, for *court martial* is a phrase made up of a noun and an adjective—simply *martial court*; the same is true of *cousin german*, *knight errant*, etc.

(2) See Rule II, 2.

(3) The second element of a compound whose first element is a numeral adjective is not pluralized; thus, a *ten-foot* (not *ten-feet*) rule; a *three-story* house; a *two-mile* race.

(4) Certain words denoting a quantity, measure, weight, or the like, are used in the singular after a numerical adjective; as, *brace*, *couple*, *dozen*, *gross*, *heal*, *pair*, *score*, *yoke*. We say "three *dozen* eggs"; "twenty *heal* of cattle"; "five *yoke* of oxen." The number of words so used is much less than formerly, and tends to diminish; three *pairs* of shoes would by very many persons be preferred to three *pair*.

2. In the *grammatical construction* of words.

(1) Nouns plural in form, but singular in sense, should not be used with plural construction; as, "The latest news *is*," not "The latest news *are*"; "No other means *is* to be found," not "No other means *are* to be found"; "Economics *is* a useful study," not "Economics *are*," etc. We say correctly "This *is* a means to an end"; but when *means* refer to more than one device, plan, or the like, it is plural; as, "Various *means* were tried." We say also "His remains *were* laid in the grave," because the word is commonly used for *parts that are left of anything*, as the remains of a fence, of a ruined castle, of a dinner, etc.

(2) A multiple, or a sum or collection of units, is viewed as a singular, and should be so used. "That hundred dollars *is* here" is correct when the amount is viewed as one *sum*. When the separate coins are referred to, the expression is plural; as, "Those hundred dollars *were* all coined last year." Whether we should say "Three times three *are*

nine," or "Three times three *is* nine," "Seven and five *are* [or *is*] twelve," depends upon whether the numbers are regarded as made up of so many separate factors, or simply as an aggregate. The mathematical sign = is always read "equals," whatever the quantities preceding it, which seems to favor the use of *is* in like situations.

(3) A singular subject takes a singular verb, even when that subject is followed by a dependent plural; as, "A great quantity of fossil remains *was* found," not "A great quantity . . . *were* found." Violations of this rule can always be avoided by a simple test: leave out all the dependent words, see what verbal form the subject then requires, and use that form, regardless of the dependent words intervening. "Not one of our friends *were* present"; cut out the dependent phrase "of our friends," and "Not one . . . *were*" is at once seen to be incorrect; the sentence should be "Not *one* of our friends *was* present."

(4) *Each* and *every* require singular verbs. A violation of this rule is a common form of the error just noted. Fitz-edward Hall (*Modern English* ch. iv, p. 117) quotes from Bentley. "The words . . . *every one* of which *were* in print before I used them." This should, of course, be "*every one . . . was*." "*Each* of the men *were* paid a dollar"; evidently "*Each . . . was*."

(5) Collective nouns are followed by verbs and pronouns in the singular or in the plural according as they are regarded collectively or distributively. In the sentence "There *was* a large congregation," the assembly is spoken of collectively, or as a whole. If the word is used distributively, that is, if anything suggests the idea of the component *individuals*, a plural verb should be used, as in the sentence "The congregation *were* not all of the same opinion." The choice of a singular or a plural verb in cases where either form would be proper is hence often influenced by the writer's way of looking at the subject.

(6) A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent. An indefinite antecedent is often mistaken for a plural, as in the sentence "If any one has been overlooked *they* may raise their hand." This error arises from the lack, in our language, of a singular pronoun of common gender. No one but a lawyer would care to say "If any one has been overlooked, *he* or *she* may raise *his* or *her* hand." The common solutions are: (1) To alter the construction, using

the definite article, where it is necessary, instead of the pronoun; as, "Any one who has been overlooked may raise *the* hand," or "If any of you have been overlooked, you may raise your hand." (2) To use *he* in its general sense as representing both masculine and feminine.

(7) A plural verb or pronoun should never be used with two subjects in the singular connected by a simple disjunctive, as *or*. Not "*he or she has* no control of their nerves," as used by Dr. Charles Hastings, of Toronto, in his "Health Bulletin," but "*he and she have* no control of their nerves."

### ON THE DIVISION OF WORDS

In writing and printing, words are divided into syllables which are formed according to certain rules based upon a sound, or a combination of sounds, uttered together, or at a single impulse of the voice. These syllables may constitute a word, or a part of a word, but there are some words, which when spoken consist of two sounds that can not be separated into syllables because no syllable can be formed without the aid of a vowel. For example, **chaos** is a dissyllabic word and is divided *cha'os*, but **chasm**, although pronounced as if spelled *chas'um*, can not be divided because the second element of the word lacks the necessary vowel. Other words undividable for the same reason are **prism** and **spasm**.

There are also certain other terms that contain the necessary vowels to enable one to form two syllables but usage has treated these as monosyllabic, hence they are never divided: **ail**, pronounced *a'il*; **flour**, pronounced *flow'er*; **hour**, pronounced *ow'er*. The pronunciations given here are not noted in the same way by the dictionaries because the systems of diacritics used by lexicons to indicate phonetic sounds contain vowel symbols, as *a* in "ale" and *e* in "they," that serve the purpose for which they have been devised and approximate closely enough to accuracy to represent the sounds heard when the words are spoken.

There are many other words in the monosyllabic class that contain two vowels, but these are inseparable, as *ai* in "pain," pronounced *paine*; *ea* in "beak," pronounced *beek*; *ei* in "eight," pronounced *ate*; *ie* in "brief," pronounced *breef*, etc.



In some other words the stress of voice isolates a symbol, as at the end of a word, as in *fluff'y*, *flum'mer-y*, *mark'y*, *mys'ter-y*.

Two systems for dividing words into syllables are used. Of these that originated in 1891 by the late Dr. Francis A. March, for the STANDARD DICTIONARY, has been received with much favor, and is still widely in use. In this dictionary the divisions represent the divisions of pronunciation. They were determined partly by physiological laws of motion to produce the proper sounds, partly by movement of purpose to bring out the thought.

The short vowel sounds are characterized by their close combination with following consonant sounds.

The accented syllable attracts the adjacent consonants.

These are physiological laws which largely determine the division of words. But there are frequent combinations of letters in which more than one division may be made that will equally give the correct sounds and observe the physiological laws. In such cases the division chosen is one that will exhibit the significant parts of the word most plainly. This method of division has been most freely used in the technical terms in that work. These terms are in fact different from colloquial speech in being primarily written words. Their inventors do not think about their pronunciation. Many of them are never pronounced.

The Standard divides *active* and *defective* on the *t*, thus: *act'ive*, *de-fect'ive*, because pronunciation and etymology agree. For the same reason it has *af-firm'a-tive*, *form'al*, *less'en*, and *mass'ive*.

The Standard Dictionary gives *de-struct'ive*, *cor'mo-rant*, *fir'ma-ment*, *les'son*, and *pas'sive*, to represent the correct pronunciation of these words and in conformity with the law for the use of consonants. There is no well-known root *de-struct'*, no foundation word *fir'm'a-ment*, no *cor'm'o-rant*, no *less'on* or *pass'ive* to require that etymology join hands with pronunciation.

The Standard has *ex-press'ive* and *pro-gress'ive*, because *ex-press* and *pro-gress* are common words. It divides *ex-pen'sive*, *de-fen'sive*, and other words in silent *s*, preceded by *ns*, on the *n*, because so pronounced and the spelling is changed by the omission of the silent *s*. The accent in *form'a-tive* and *for-ma'tion* causes a different

pronunciation and consequently a different syllabication. The same may be said of the contrast in *serv'ile* and *servil'i-ty*. In the division into syllables of the words *armor*, *harbor*, *normal*, the Standard adheres to its rule of correct pronunciation. It divides on a long accented vowel and throws the consonants to the following syllable, while it joins a short vowel to its following consonant, when this can be done without misrepresenting the pronunciation. In the words *eastern*, *master*, etc., the *st* of *east* is by etymology and pronunciation joined to *ea*; therefore, *east'ern*. *Mus'ter* is one who rules, *mas'ter* is a vessel with a certain number of masts, so divided by etymology, and this division does not misrepresent the pronunciation. The Standard sanctions such divisions as *practi-cal*, *politic-al*, because words ending in *-ic*, as *me-chan'ic*, *po-lit'ic*, etc., where the accent does not change, take *-al*, and the termination becomes *ic-al*, while words ending in *-ical* that are not formed from *-ical* are divided *i-cal*, as *practi-cal*, etc.

## RULES FOR THE DIVISION OF WORDS

The following rules may serve as guides to the method introduced in the NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY, in 1913, but amplified, and now commonly used in dividing English words.

### The Prefixes

1. **Prefixes**, such as *ab-*, *ad-*, *ante-*, *anti-*, *auto-*, *bi-*, *co-*, *com-*, *de-*, *demi-*, *di-*, *dis-*, *em-*, *en-*, *equi-*, *im-*, *in-*, *mis-*, *multi-*, *out-*, *per-*, *pre-*, *pro-*, *re-*, *sub-*, *super-*, *trans-*, *un-*, are usually separated from the parent word, as in *ab-ject*, *ad-mire*, *ante-cedent*, *anti-chamber*, *auto-mobile*, *bi-sect*, *co-operate*, *com-mensurate*, *de-press*, *demi-god*, *di-late*, *dis-locate*, *em-brace*, *em-power*, *en-close*, *en-fold*, *equi-valent*, *im-press*, *in-different*, *mis-deed*, *multi-form*, *out-burst*, *out-cast*, *out-side*, *per-ennial*, *per-fect*, *pre-amble*, *pre-cipitate*, *pre-cocious*, *pro-digal*, *pro-log*, *re-peat*, *re-pose*, *re-surrection*, *sub-acid*, *sub-divide*, *sub-marine*, *super-natural*, *super-pose*, *rans-fer*, *trans-mit*, *un-born*, *un-avoidable*, etc.

### The Suffixes

2. **Suffixes**, such as *-able*, *-ant*, *-ent*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-est*, *-eth*, *-ible*, *-ing*, *-ish*, *-ist*, *-ize* (*-ise*), etc., are usually separated from the parent word, as in *charit-able*, *cap-able*, *assist-ant*, *eleg-ant*, *inf-ant*, *ten-ant*, *absorb-ent*, *presid-ent*, *provid-ent*,

*prud-ent, beard-ed, round-ed, bick-er, clamb-er, flick-er, dear-est, full-est, hard-est, soon-est, lay-eth, say-eth, ed-ible, forc-ible, bind-ing, clear-ing, feel-ing, reckon-ing, clown-ish, fool-ish, anatom-ist, pian-ist, public-ist, pugil-ist, apolog-ize, catech-ize, civil-ize, critic-ize.* See -ISE, -IZE (page 9).

EXCEPTIONS: *horned, pressed, ruined.*

3. When a suffix or an attached syllable requires that the final consonant of the stem be doubled, the doubled letter is added to the suffix, as *allot, allot-ting; confer, confer-rable; glad, glad-den; rob, rob-ber.*

### The Vowels

4. When two vowels that come together are sounded separately, each belongs to a different syllable; for instance, *abey-ance, a-eroplane, a-orist, ba-obab* (a Central African tree), *buoy-ancy, cow-ard, cow-er, cny-ote, di-al, ortho-epy, sci-ence.*

5. When two vowel letters form a diphthong, as *ai* in "aisle," *ei* in "either," *oi* in "oil," *ou* in "out," or two, or more than two letters, make a digraph or trigraph, as *ck* in "sick," *ea* in "each," *eau* in "beau," *gh* in "cough," *gn* in "consign," *ng* in "bring," *ph* in "physic," *sch* in "schedule," *sci* in "science," *sh* in "ash," *ss* in "caress," *th* in "thin," they are considered as single vowels or consonants, as the case may be, and are not separable.

6. When the preceding vowel is short and accented it attracts the adjacent consonant, as in *admon-ish, hab'it, hab-it'ual; proph'et, prophet'ic; wom'an.*

7. An unaccented short vowel attracts the following consonant, as in *ab-ductor, dis-arm, en-amor, im-agine.* See THE PREFIXES, p. 19.

8. Unaccented or short or obscure vowels in an unaccented syllable of a root-word usually attract the consonant that follows, as in *confection-ary, custom-ary, diction-ary, vision-ary.*

9. An accented long vowel attracts the following consonant, as in *al'der, al'derman; mak'er.*

### The Consonants

10. A consonant, digraph, or trigraph, occurring between two vowels, is attracted by the later syllable when the first vowel is long, one-half long, or obscure,

except in *beau'ti-ful*, *ca-pac'i-ty*, *fa'tal*, *fa'ther*, *fa'vor*, *fed'-er-al*, *pe-cu'liar*, *pro'gram*, *rea'son*, *sea'son*, *sed'a-tive*, *sep'a-rate*.

11. Two or more **consonants** coming together, beginning a syllable, and occurring between two sounded vowels, are joined to the second vowel (1) when the first is long and accented or when capable of use to end an unaccented syllable; as, *a'blest*, *au'thor*, *bu'gler*, *con'tract*, *cy'clone*, *di'graph*, *ha'tred*, *ker'chief*, *neu'tral*, *fee'ble*, *peo'ple*, *psy'chic*, *trem'bling*, etc.; or, (2) when the second vowel occurs in an accented syllable; as, *a-cros'tic*, *a-sleep'*, *a-stride'*, *a-thwart'*, *be-strew'*, *be-stride'*, *de-scend'*, *de-scrib'ing*, *de-scrip'tion*, *hy-drau'lic*, *re-proof'*, *re-spect'*, etc.

12. When two or more **consonants** come together between two vowel-sounds, one of the consonants is attracted to the accented syllable, whether the vowel be short or long; as, *ab-rupt'*, *ab-sorb'*, *ag'nate*, *al'ba-tross*, *ar'chi-tect*, *at'las*, *can'did*, *es-pe'cial*, *es-teem'*, *mag'net*, *om-nis'cience*, *res'cue*, etc.

13. When two or more **consonants**, that can not begin a syllable when used together, occur between two sounded vowels, they are separable, and one or two of them join the first vowel, be it long or short, as in *an'cient*, *an'gel*, *ar'chi-tec'ture*, *buck'le*, *bur'glar*, *cam'bric*, *con'ver-sa'tion*, *dis-ci'ple*, *dis-claim'*, *whis'tle*, etc.

**EXCEPTIONS:** When the spelling and accentuation of the parent or root-word is retained and the meaning is a derived one, the rule does not hold; as in *art*, *art'ist*; *bank*, *bank'er*; *Celt*, *Celt'ic*; *dance*, *danc'ing*; *fish*, *fish'ery*, etc. For further exemplification, see under **L** and **LL**.

14. When the **consonantal digraphs** *sc*, *sp*, and *st*, and the trigraph *str* occur preceding or following an accented syllable, they are separated, as in *sus-cep'tible*, *aus-pi'cious*, *cus'pi-dor*, *sus-pect'*, *cas'tle*, (but not *cast'er*), *mas'ter*, *oys'ter*, *pas'time*, *aus'tral*.

15. The **consonantal digraph** *st* is inseparable in certain dissyllabic words, as *blast-ed*, *boast-ed*, *coast-ing*, *east-ern*, *fast-ing*, *feast-ed*, *post-ed*, etc.

16. Some **consonants**, as *c*, *ç*, *d*, *g*, *s*, *sc*, *t* and *z*, do not end syllables because the vowels, or combinations of vowels, with which they are inseparably associated produce the sounds of *ch*, *j*, *sh*, or *zh*. For example, sibilant *c*

as in *invin'cible* and "soft" *g* as in *exi-gencies*, *spe'cious*, *sol'dier*, *conta'gious*, *spe'cial*, *con'scious*, *injudi'cious*, *condi'tion*, *glaz'ier*. But the exceptions are numerous, as when the letters occur before a true suffix, as *-ed*, *-er*, and *-ing*, as in *fast*, *fast-ed*; *charge*, *charg-er*; *cage*, *cag-ing*; or, when without another consonant following a short accented vowel, as in *dig'it*, *log'ic*, *mag'ic*, or when occurring in *dg*, as in *ac-knowl'edg-ment* and *judy'ment*. The derivatives of the word *right* are also exceptions:—*right'eous*, *right'eously*, *right'eousness*; *right'ful*, *right'fully*, *right'fulness*.

17. When the consonants *d*, *s*, *t*, *z*, are so influenced by *u* as to produce the sounds *ch*, *j*, *sh* or *zh* they do not end a syllable. EXAMPLES: *proce'dure*, *sen'sual*, *fa'cture*, *sci'zure*, *su'ture*, *ver'dure*. When a preceding short vowel is accented it attracts the consonant modified, as in *ax'ure*, *cas'ual*, *congrat'ulate*, *ed'ucate*, *nat'ural*, *pleas'ure*. EXCEPTION: *fraud'u-lent*.

18. The consonants that do not begin a syllable are (1) *r* when it follows *a* or *e*, as in *bare*, *bar'er*, *bur'cal*; *bear*, *bear'er*; *care*, *car'ing*; *fare*, *far'ing*; *fear*, *fear'ing*, *fear'ful*; *aver'age*; *be'er-age*; *gen-er'al*, etc. (2) *x* when it is pronounced *ks* or *gz*, as in *anx'ious*, *com-plex'ion*, *ex-am'i-na'tion*, *ex-am'ple*.

19. When *l*, *n*, or *v* are followed by *i*, sounded as consonantal *y*, they do not, according to Webster, begin a syllable, but according to the New Standard Dictionary they do. See *a'lien*, *fo'lio*, *con-ve'nient*, *pe-cu'liar*, *be-ha'vior*, etc.

20. Compound words are divided into syllables even as the words of which they are formed are divided, as *air-way*, *all-spice*, *awe-struck*, *back-bone*, *blue-bon-net*, *book-bind-er*, *book-sel-ler*, etc.

21. The final consonants are *b*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *t*, *z*, as the following words will serve to illustrate: *abb*, *ebb*; *add*, *odd*; *biff*, *bluff*, *buff*; *egg*; *ball*, *cell*, *sill*, *boll*, *bull*; *Finn*, *inn*, *jinn*; *Lapp*; *err*, *burr*, *purr*; *sett*, *bitt*, *butt*; *buss*, *fizz*, *jazz*.

# SPELLING TESTS

In the following paragraphs a great variety of words frequently misspelled are provided for use in testing ability to spell correctly.

(1) A desiccated disappointed physicist was peeling potatoes in an embarrassing and harassing way. His idiosyncrasy and privilege was to eat mayonnaise and mussels while staring at the Pleiades and seizing tricycles and velocipedes. He was an erring teetotaller on a picayune jamboree. He rode a palfrey stallion, attended by a pedler, and carried a salable papier-maché bouquet of asters, phlox, mullein, chrysanthemums, rhododendrons, fuchsias, and nasturtiums.

He wore a sibyl's resplendent turquoise paraphernalia, an ormolu yashmak and astrakhan chaparejos. He drank crystallizable and disagreeable curaçoa juleps through a sieve. He stole moneys and hid them in the mattress of a mahogany bedstead.

Like a fiend in an ecstasy of gaiety, I rushed into the maelstrom after him and participating in the fracas held him as in a vise during the mêlée. I could not fesse him, however, and he addressed me, autocritically, in the following imbecile words which sounded like a soliloquy or a superseding psœan on an oboe:

"You are a ratable luna-moth, a salaaming visier, an equinoctial coryphœe and anisocœles daguerreotype. Avaunt with your orthographical conundrum!"

(2) "Satire and sophistry are the patron and matron of tergiversation: all the machinations of the Panjandrum were superfluous and exhibited a specimen of Anglophilic obstinacy apparently designed to intimidate labor that national industry, capitalised by the aristocracy, might flourish, and mercantile products be benefited by the profiteers' outrageous inflation of prices.

"He was wounded by the formidable implements of ceremony, and feared the contiguous chasm into which he had been inveigled or intrigued might lead him to the cerements of the crematorium and through the neropolis to his sepulcher.

"The medicine prescribed for the ophthalmia and typhus rendered him paralytic, and the lamentable news from Athens proscribing both elecampane and heroin made the matter very ludicrous.

"The horizon of hereditary anticipation was towards Przasnysz and an acceptable respite from the gynecutis was sufficiently opportune to render him accessory to cognizance. Finally, to give accuracy to the exaggerated account of his obstreperous behavior, he sold his demense rather than say 'apostrophe' or spell 'diphthong'."

(3) "He was attached to literature and ethics, and by means of an advertisement he entered into a controversy with a Highlander concerning his plaid and pronunciation; and, in the altitude of his choler and the height of his enthusiasm, denominated him a plagiarist, a pedant, and a miscreant; he said that his plagiarism, although extempore, was irrelevant, and was obtained from the economical fabric of his legends, through the preimages of which he apparently construed his inherent and aerial traits of absurdity."

(4) "Isolated and impotent in the hands of such executors, the thoughts of Mnemosyne were alienated from the momentous and exemplary premises of mnemonics to desultory, despicable, and arbitrary considerations. Her finances were expended on venison, cressets, prunes, fuchsias, phthalein and geraniums: her ipse dixit upon monarchical and typographical subjects was specific and incontrovertible. It was perceptible that the concomitants had produced a mischievous, indisputable, extraordinary and irreparable effect: she was inexorable to courtesy, and environed as she was by fantasmagoria, she succumbed in the sanitarium to the machinations of riming satirists, and to the flagrant orisons of her prompters, while the cheiropter flew at the spondylotherapist for arguing with the chiropodist."

# WORDS WE MISSPELL

## VOCABULARY

### A

- a.** In English the sounds of the letter *a* are as in "all," "artistic," "art," "fat," "fare," "ale," "ask," "any," "swan," "about," "sofa," etc. In England the letter *a*, as in "fat," is pronounced as if it were a diphthong consisting of *a* and *e*. In some mouths this sound becomes a drawl which approximates to the sound of *e* as in "eight," prolonged. In the eastern United States and in Canada the drawl, or dawdle—for it is little else—does not appear, the letter being given the short sharp sound that is heard in *at*, *bat*, *cat*, *fat*, *hat*, etc. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

In English the sound of *a* in "all," "law," is indicated in spelling also by *o* as in "lord," by *au*, as in "fault," by *ai* as in "fall," and by *aw*, as in "awl." The sound of *a* in "art" is indicated also by *ea* as in "heart," *au* as in "aunt," and *ua* as in "guard"; that of *a* as in "fat" is indicated also by *ai* as in "plaid," and *ua* in "guaranty"; that of *a* as in "fare" is indicated also by *ai* as in "air," *ea* as in "pear," *ei* as in "their," and *er* as in "ere"; that of *a* as in "ale" is indicated by *ai* as in "ail," *ao* as in "gaol," *ay* as in "aye," *ea* as in "great," *ei* as in "eight," *ey* as in "they," and that of *a* as in "what" by *o* as in "not." See INTRODUCTION.

**ab-bre'vi-ate**, derived from the Latin *ab-* and *brevis*, is correctly spelt with two *b*'s; not, as commonly pronounced *a-bre'vi-ate*.

**A'bel** (a man's name), distinguish from **a'ble** (powerful, competent).

**a-bet'** doubles the final *t* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel (as, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*, *-or*): **a-bet'ted**, not *abeted*; **a-bet'ter**, not *abeter*; **a-bet'-ting**, not *abeting*; **a-bet'tor**, not *abetor*.



ab-hor' doubles the final *r* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel: ab-hor'rence, ab-hor'rent, not *abhor-ence*, *abhorrent*.

-able. A suffix used to form adjectives; as, *changeable*, *honorable*, *lovable*, etc. See -ABLE and -IBLE, p. 5.

None of the three letters *a*, *j*, *q* is ever followed by either -able or -ible.

-ible is always preceded by one of the following letters: *c*, *d*, *g*, *l*, *n*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *x*.

With the exception of the *a*, *j*, *q* above noted, -able may follow any letter of the alphabet.

Each of the fourteen letters, *b*, *e*, *f*, *h*, *i*, *k*, *m*, *o*, *p*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *y*, *z*, is always followed by -able. Examples: *curb-able*, *peace-able*, *aff-able*, *wash-able*, *reil-able*, *attack-able*, *furni-able*, *help-able*, *lasso-able*, *valu-able*, *lov-able*, *allow-able*, *enjoy-able*, *civiliz-able*.

My deductions refer only to -able and -ible as derivational entities, and not to cases in which the alphabetic sequences are inbuilt parts of the word, as in *cable*, *fable*, *valde*, *Bible*, *forbide*.

JACOB BACKUS in *The Sun*, New York, Oct. 14, 1917.

ab'o-li'tion (the act of abolishing), distinguish from eb'ul-li'tion (an outburst).

a-bridge' drops the final *e* in the noun a-bridg'ment, not *abridgement*.

ab'access. Note that the *c* is silent. See *ac*.

a-cad'e-my, not *acadamy*, *accademy* or *acadidemy*.

ac-cede', not *acced*.

ac-ce'dence (agreement), distinguish from ac'ci-dence (mishap; also, rudiments of grammar).

ac-cel'er-ate, not *accelerate*.

ac-cel'er-a'tor, not *accelerator*.

ac-cept' (to receive), distinguish from ex-cept' (to leave out).

ac-cept'a-ble, not *acceptable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

ac-cep'tances, not *acceptancies*, which is the plural of ac-cep'tan-cy, a form now rarely used.

ac-cep'tor, not *accepter*.

ac'cess (approach; passage), distinguish from ex-cess' (surplus; overplus).

accessable. Misspelling of ac-ces'si-ble.

ac-ces'sa-ry (aiding subordinately), distinguish from ac-ces'so-ry (a person not present, who is concerned in a felony).

Etymologically, *accessary* seems to be the proper substantive form to represent the person, but it has become in all cases practically interchangeable with *accessory*, *s. & m.*, and the latter now seems to be rapidly supplanting it in both common and legal usage. *WHEATON* *Precedents* favors -ary, but the *Encyc. Brit.* and the *International*, *New American*, and *Globe Encyclopedias*, *BLACKSTONE*, and *COOLEY* *Notes on Blackstone*, *AMOTTS* *Law Dict.*, and the court decisions

generally, use *-ory*, most of them exclusively and the rest prevailingly. In the *U. S. Statutes at Large*, *-ory* is used in the text (179) and again in the *P. O. Laws* (1825); but *-ory* is used in the index and marginal notes showing the later tendency to the use of *-ory*.

ac-cēs'si-ble, not *accessable*. See *-IBLE*, p. 9.

ac'ci-dence (rudiments of grammar), distinguish from ac'ci-dents (mishaps). Compare *ACCEDE*.

• ac'ci-dent, not *accident*. Compare *ACCEDE*.

ac'ci-den'tal-ly, not *accidently*.

ac-cli'mate, not *acclimate*.

ac'co-lade, not *accolaid*.

• ac-com'mo-date, not *accomodate*.

ac-cou'ter, ac-cou'tre, not *acouter*. The first is preferred in the United States; the second is used in Great Britain.

• a-cross', not *accross*.

ac-crue'd', not *accrude*.

ac-cru'ing, not *accruing*.

ac-cu'mu-la'tion, not *accummellation*.

• *accur*: Misspelling of *oc-cur*'.

ache. Originally spelt *ake* and pronounced as if so spelt to-day. Note that here *ch* has the sound of *k*, not that of *tch* as in *church*.

• a-chieve', not *acheive*.

• ac-knowl'edge drops final *e* in the present participle and verbal noun ac-knowl'edg-ing, and in the noun ac-knowl'edg-ment.

ac-knowl'edge-a-ble, not *acknowledgable*. See *-ABLE*, p. 5.

a-cous'tics, not *accoustics*.

*acquatic*. Misspelling of *a-quat'ic*.

• ac-quit' doubles the final *t* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel: ac-quit'tal, not *acquital*; ac-quit'ted, not *acquited*; ac-quit'ting, not *acquiting*.

a'cre, not *aker*, which is the original, now obsolete, form. A. S. *acer*.

acts (deeds), distinguish from *ax* or *axe* (an edge-tool for chopping).

ad'age, not *adige*.

a-dapt'er, not *adaptor*. See *-ER*, p. 8.

• ad-dress'. Note the two *d*'s—not *a-dress*'.

adds (joins to), distinguish from *adz* (a tool).

ad-duce' retains final *e* before *-able* suffix, but drops it before *-ible*, suffix; as, ad-duce'a-ble, ad-du'ci-ble.

ad-here', not *adhear*.

- ad-her'ence (attachment), distinguish from ad-her'ents (followers). See -ENCE, p. 8.
- ad-ja'cent. Note the *d* in this word which is retained altho not heard in modern pronunciation.
- ad-journ'. Note the *d* in this word: not *ajourn*. See ADJACENT.
- ad-judge'. Note the *d* in the first syllable which is retained altho not heard when the word is pronounced. Not *ajudge*. See ADJOURN.
- ad-mis'si-ble, not *admissible*. See -IBLE, p. 9.
- ad'o-les'cence, not *adolescense*. Compare LICENSE.
- ad va-lo'rem, not *ad valorum*.
- ad-vance', not *advanse*. This word *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant; as, ad-vance'ment. The *e* is retained before -able; as in ad-vance'a-ble but dropped before -ing and -ive; as in ad-van'cing, ad-van'cive or -sive. See -ABLE, p. 5, and -IVE, p. 10.
- ad-van'tage, not *advantage* or *advantidge*. This word *retains* final *e* in the adjectives ad-van'tage-a-ble and ad'van-ta'geous but omits it before -ing in ad-van'tag-ing.
- ad-vert', not *advurt*.
- ad-ver'tence, not *advertence*. See -ENCE, p. 8.
- ad-ver'tise, not *advertize*. The final syllable takes an *s* not a *z*. The final *e* of this word is *dropped* before any suffix beginning with a vowel; as, ad'ver-tised', ad'ver-tis'ing.
- ad-ver'tise-ment, not *advertisment* or *advertizement*.
- ad-ver'tis'er, not *advertizer*.
- ad-vice' (counsel), distinguish from ad-vise' (to counsel).
- ad-vis'a-ble, not *adviseable*, or *advizable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.
- ad-vis'er, not *advisor*.
- ad-vi'so-ry, not *advisery*.
- ad'y-tum, not *additum*.
- æ'gis. Classic form of e'gis. Both spellings are in use.
- Æ-o'li-an, not *Aolian*.
- æ'on. Classic form of MON.
- a-e'ri-al, not *aireal*. Correctly pronounced as if written ay-ee'ri-al.
- a'er-o-naut, not *aironaut*.
- a'er-o-plane, not *airoplane* as frequently mispronounced.
- æs-thet'ic. Classic form of es-thet'ic. Both spellings are in use.

**af'fa-ble** (courteous), distinguish from **ef'fa-ble** (utterable). See **-ABLE**, p. 5.

**af-fair'**, not *afair*, *afare* or *affare*.

**af-fect'** (influence), distinguish from **ef-fect'** (result).

**af'fi-da'vit**, not *afidavit*.

**af-fran'chise**, not *affranchize*.

**a-gen'da**, not *ajenda*.

**ag'gran-dize**, not *agrandise*.

**ag-grieve'**, not *aggreive* or *ag-ieve*.

**ag'i-o-tage**, not *ajiotage*.

**ag'o-nize**, not *agonise*.

**a-gree'** retains the final *e* when followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **a-gree'a-ble** (not *agreable*), **a-gree'a-bil'i-ty**, **a-gree'a-ble-ness**, etc. It retains it also before **-ment**, as in **a-gree'ment**.

**Ah'ri-man**, not *Ariman*.

**aide-de-camp'**. The first word ends with a final *e*; not *aid-de-camp*. The plural is formed by adding *s* to it — **aides-de-camp** — not to the word *camp*.

**ai'gret**, **ai'grette** (a tuft of feathers), distinguish from **e'gret** (a bird, the heron).

**ail** (to feel pain), distinguish from **ale** (a beverage).

**air** (the atmosphere), distinguish from **heir** (one who inherits), and from **Ayr** (a town in Scotland).

**aisle** (a passage, as in a church), distinguish from **isle** (an island).

**ait** (a small island in a river), distinguish from **eight** (a number).

**al-**. See **ALL**.

**al'ba-tross** or **al'ba-tross**, both forms are in use, but the second is preferred.

**al-bu'men** (white of egg), distinguish from **al-bu'min** (viscous substance).

**al'co-hol**, not *alchool*.

**Al-gon'ki-an** is preferred to **Al-gon'qui-an**, but both are used.

• **a'lien**, not *alein*.

• **aline**, commonly misspelled *align*. As *line* is the English spelling of the French *ligne* the form *aline* is the correct English rendering of the French *aligner*.

**a-line'ment**, not *alignment*, a form derived from a misspelling of the French *alignement*. See **ALINE**.

**all**, when used in combination with **-most**, **-ready**, **-right**,

-so and -ways usually drops final *l*, but see ALMOST, ALREADY, etc., below.

all (whole), distinguish from awl (a boring-tool).

- al-lay (relieve, soothe), distinguish from al'ley (a narrow passage).

Al'le-ga'ny (a county in N. Y.), distinguish from Al'le-gha'ny (mountains) and Al'le-ghe'ny (a county in Pa.).

- al'le-ga'tion (an assertion), distinguish from al'li-ga'tion (a tying together, or a rule in arithmetic).
- ✓ al-lege', not *alledge*. This word drops final *e* before the participial endings -ed and -ing, and the suffix -ation, but retains it before -able, as in al-legged', al-leg'ing, al'le-ga'tion, al-lege'a-ble.

al-leg'er, not *alledger*.

al-le'giance, not *allegeance*. Compare VENGEANCE.

al'ley (a narrow passage), distinguish from al-ly' (one associate with another to assist) which is frequently mispronounced.

al'li-ga'tion. Distinguish from ALLEGATION.

*almanac*. Misspelling of al'ma-nac.

- al-lot' *doubles* the *t* in the participles al-lot'ted, al-lot'ting, but not before -ment, suffix: allot'ment.

✓ *allready*. Misspelling of ALREADY.

- all right. The commonly preferred form of ALRIGHT.

al-lude' (to refer to), distinguish from e-lude' (to avoid), and il-lude' (to deceive).

al-lu'sion (a reference), distinguish from il-lu'sion (unreal image).

- all ways (in every manner), distinguish from al'ways (ceaselessly, regularly).

- al-ly' *changes* final *y* to *i* in the formation of the plural al-lies'.

al'ma-nac, not *almanac*, *almanach* or *almanack*.

- al'most, always one word, never *all most*.

alms (relief, charity), distinguish from arms (upper limbs of the human body; weapons of offense).

a'loud (in audible voice), distinguish from al-lowed (permitted).

al'pha-bet, not *alphabet*.

- al-read'y (even now; by this time), distinguish from all ready (everything prepared for use or action).

al'right, the original spelling of the word (A-S., *alriht*)

- which does not follow the analogy of *almost*, *already*, *also*, but is commonly written *all right*. See **ALL RIGHT**.
- al'so** (besides; as well), distinguish from **all so** (every one in the same degree).
- al'tar** (place of worship), distinguish from **al'ter** (to change).
- alter'nate** (reciprocal), is spelt in the same way as **al'ter-nate** (perform successively), but pronounced differently.
- al'ter-na'tor**, not *alternater*. See **-OR**, p. 11.
- al-tho'**. A contraction of **al-though'** now in wide use.
- al'to-geth'er** (wholly; entirely), distinguished from **all together** (unitedly as a body; in unison).
- a-lu'mi-num**. Between the forms *aluminum* and *aluminium*, there is great diversity of usage, but *aluminum* appears to be the form now preferred by manufacturers and chemists. The spelling followed by the United States Dispensatory and the United States Pharmacopœia is *aluminum*.
- al'ways** (perpetually; ceaselessly), distinguish from **all ways** (every way or manner).
- a-mal'ga-mate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **a-mal'ga-mat'ed**, **a-mal'ga-mat'ing**.
- a-man'u-en'sis** (*sing.*) forms its plural by changing *i* of the final syllable into *e*—**a-man'u-en'ses** (*plur.*).
- a-mass'** retains final *s* before the suffixes *-able*, *-er*, *-ment*.
- a-mass'a-ble**, not *amassible*.
- am'a-teur'**, not *amature*. Compare **ARMATURE**.
- am-bas'sa-dor**, not *ambassader*.
- am-bi'tion**, not *ambishon*.
- a-merce'ment** (a penalty), not *amersement*. Distinguish from **im-merse'ment** (act of immersing).
- a-mid'** (in the midst of), distinguish from **am'id** (chemical salt).
- am'me-ter**, not *ameter*.
- am'mu-ni'tion**, not *amunition*.
- a-mong'** preferred to **amongst** in the United States, but the latter has wide vogue in Great Britain.
- a-mor'tize**, sometimes also **a-mor'tise**, but not *amortice*. This word drops final *e* before *-able*, and *-ation*, but retains it before *-ment*: **a-mor'tiz-a-ble**, **a-mor'ti-za'tion**, **a-mor'tize-ment**.

a-mo'tion (removal from office), distinguish from e-mo'tion (sentiment).

am-per'age, not *ampereage*, or *ampierage*.

am-pere', not *ampeet*, or *ampier*.

am-phis'cians, not *amfishiana*. See PH.

a-muse', not *amuze*. This word *drops* its final vowel before -able and -er, and in the participles, as in a-mus'a-ble, a-mus'er, a-mused, a-mus'ing, but *retains* it, before -ment--a-muse'ment.

a-nal'y-sis, not *annulysis*. This word forms its plural by changing *i* of the final syllable into *e*--a-nal'y-*ses* (*plur.*).

\* an'a-lyst (one who analyzes), distinguish from an'nal-ist (one who writes annals).

\* an'a-lyze, an'a-lyse. Both spellings are in use, the first predominating in the United States; the second in Great Britain. Not *annulyze*.

an'chor. Distinguish from ANKER.

an'cho-ret, not *ankoret*.

an'cho-rite, not *ankorite*.

an'cient, not *anceint*. See EI, IE, pp. 7-9.

An'gli-cize or -cise, not *Anglize*.

an'ise, not *annis*.

an'i-seed", not *anniseed* or *anise seed*.

an'ker (a liquid measure), distinguish from an'chor (an implement for holding a ship).

an'kle, not *angle*. Compare UNCLE.

an'ky-lo'sis, not *anchylosis*.

\* an'nal-ist. Distinguish from ANALYST.

*annalize*. Misspelling of *analyze*.

an-neal', not *aneal*.

an-ni'hi-late, not *anihilate*.

an-noy', not *anoy*.

\* an-nul doubles final *l* before -able, -ed and -ing, but not before -ment: an-nul'la-ble, an-nulled', an-nul'-ling, an-nul'ment.

an-nun'ci-ate (announce), distinguish from e-nun'ci-ate (speak).

a-nom'a-lous, not *anomyous*.

a-non'y-mous, not *anonimous*.

an'swer, not *anser*, altho so pronounced the *w* being silent. The word is from Anglo-Saxon *and*, and *swerian*, swear, which accounts for the presence of the *w*.

- **ant** (an insect), distinguish from **aunt** (a relative).
- **an'te-** (a prefix meaning "before"), distinguish from **an'ti-** (prefix meaning "against").
- an"te-bel'lum** means, before the war, **an"ti-bel'lum**, means, against (or opposed to) the war, but combines a Greek word (*anti*) with a Latin one (*bellum*).
- an"te-ce'dent**, not *antecedent*.
- an'te-date**, not *antidate*.
- an'te-di-lu'vi-an**, not *antideluvian*.
- an'te-nup'tial**, not *antinuptial*.
- An'tho-ny**, not *Antony*.
- an'ti-mo-ny** (a metallic element), distinguish carefully from **an-tin'o-my** (self-contradiction in a law).
- an'ti-sep-tic**, not *antiseptic*.
- anx-i'e-ty**. Pronounced as if spelt *angxiety*.
- anx'ious**. Pronounced as if spelt *angk'shus*.
- Aolian**. Misspelling of *Æolian*.
- aparatus**. Misspelling of **ap"pa-ra'tus**.
- a-part'ment**, not *apartement*.
- ap'er-ture**, not *apature*.
- apetite**. Misspelling of **appetite**.
- a'pi-a-ry**, not **ap'er-y**. The first is a place where bees (Latin, *apis*, a bee) are kept; the second, a place where apes (A-S., *apa*, ape) are kept.
- a-piece'**, not *apeice*. See XI, IE, pp. 7-9.
- ap'ish**, not *apeish*.
- a'plomb'** [Fr.], not *aplom*.
- ap'o-gee**, not *apajee*.
- A-pol'lo**, not *Appolo*.
- **a-pol'o-glize**, not *apologise*.
- a-pol'o-gy**, final *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, as in **a-pol'o-gies**, **a-pol'o-gist**.
- ap'o-phthegm**, now more generally **ap'o-them** (a maxim).
- a-pos'til** (a marginal note), distinguish from **a-pos'tle** (an evangelist).
- a-pos'tro-phize**, not *apostrophise*.
- a-poth'e-ca-ry**, not *apothacary* or *apothicary*.
- ap'o-them**. Preferred form of **APOPTHHEGM**.
- **ap-pal'**, **ap-pall'**. Both spellings are in use; the first derived from the French *appalir*; the second, from the Latin *ad*, to, and *palleo*, be pale.
- **ap"pa-ra'tus**, not *aparatus*.



ap-par'el, v. The participles of this verb are preferably spelt **ap-par'eled**, **ap-par'el-ing**, but in British usage an *l* is added to them—**ap-par'elled**; **ap-par'el-ing**.

• ap-par'ent, not *aparent* or *appairent*. See -ENT, p. 8.

• ap-peal', not *apeal* or *appeel*.

ap-pear', not *appeer* or *appier*.

ap-peace', not *appeaze*. Before -able, -ably, -ingly, -ive the final *e* of the last syllable is dropped—**ap-peas'a-ble**, **ap-peas'a-bly**, **ap-peas'ing-ly**, **ap-peas'ive**, but it is retained before -ment; as, **ap-peace'ment**.

ap-pel'lant, not *appelant*, **ap-pel'late**, not *appelate*, **ap'pel-la'tion**, not *apulation*, **ap'pel'lee**, not *ap-ellee*. Derived from the Latin *ad*, to (which undergoes a euphonic change to *ap* before *p*), and *pello*, drive, these words should be spelt with two *p*'s and two *l*'s.

ap-pen'di-ci'tis, not *appendisitis*.

• ap-pen'dix (*sing.*). The plural of this word is formed by adding -es to the last syllable or by dropping final *x* and adding -es: **ap-pen'di-ces**. See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

ap'pe-ti-ble, not *appetable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

• ap'pe-tite, not *apatite* or *apelite*.

ap'pli-qué', not *aplicay*. The past participle is **ap'pli-qué'**, the present participle **ap'pli-qué'ing**.

ap-ply' retains the final *y* in the present participle, **ap-ply'ing**, but *y* changes to *i* in the past participle **ap-plied'**.

Appolo. Misspelling of A-pol'lo.

ap-por'tion, not *aportion*.

• ap-pose' (place or bring near), distinguish from **op-pose'** (offer resistance to).

• ap'po-site (fit, suitable), distinguish from **op'po-site** (contrary).

• ap-praise and its derivatives take *s* in the accented syllable and not *z*: as, **ap-prais'a-ble**, **ap-prais'al**, **ap-praise'ment**, **ap-prais-er**.

ap-pre'ci-ate, not *appreciate*.

ap'pre-hen'si-ble, not *apprehensable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

ap-pren'tice, not *apprentise*.

• ap-prise', ap-prize', not *aprise* or *apprise*.

ap-proach', not *approach*.

• ap'ro-pos' [Fr.]. Note the final *s* which is never sounded. a-quat'ic, not *acquatic*.

aq'ue-duct, not *acqueduct* or *aquaduct*.

a'que-ous, not *aquious*.

ar'bi-trage, not *arbitredge*.

ar'bor, ar'bour. Both spellings are in use; the first, preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain. See next.

ar-bo're-al, ar-bo're-ous, ar'bo-res'cent, ar'bor-i-cul'ture. The *u* is *dropped* in the second syllable of these words and their derivatives in both American and British usage. See ARBOR.

ar'bus-cle (a dwarf tree), distinguish from ar-bus'cule (a tuft or hair-like growth).

- arc (a part of a circle), distinguish from ark (a chest, a boat).

arc, *v.* In electrical usage the participles of this verb are formed by adding *-ed* for the past participle, and *-ing* for the present participle, arced; arc'ing. See -ED, -ING, p. 7.

- arch-. This prefix, when it occurs before *a*, *i*, *o*, and sometimes *e* is pronounced *ark*, as in ar'chæ-ol'o-gy or ar'che-ol'o-gy (pronounced *ar-ke-ol-oji*), ar'cha'ic (pronounced *ar-ka'ic*), arch-an'gel (pronounced *ark-an'jel*), ar'chi-ect (pronounced *ar'ki-ect*), ar'chive (pronounced *ar'kive*); but before *b*, *d*, as in arch'bish'op and arch'duke, and in arch, arched, arch'er and arch'ing it is pronounced *artish*.

Arc'tic, not *artic*.

ar'dor, ar'dour. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

ar'du-ous, not *ardueous*.

a're-a (extent of surface), distinguish from a'ri-a (a melody).

ar'give, not *arjive*.

ar'gon (gaseous element), distinguish from Ar'gonne' (wooded battle-ground in France).

Ar'gonne', not *Argon*.

ar'got, not *argo*.

ar'gue drops final vowel before *-able*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*, and *-ment*:  
ar'gu-a-ble, ar'gued, ar'gu-ing, ar'gu-ment.

a-rise', not *arize* or *arrise*.

ar'is-toc'ra-cy, not *aristocrasy*.

a-rith'me-tic, not *arithmatic*.

ar'ma-ture, not *armateur*. Compare AMATEUR.

Ar'men'tières', not *Armanrières*.

ar'mil-la-ry, not *armillery*.

ar'mor, armour. Both spellings are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

a-rouse', not *arouze*, or *arrouse*.

ar-raign'. Note the *g* in this word and its derivatives ar-raigned', ar-raign'ing, ar-raign'ment. Compare DERAIGN.

✓ ar-range', not *arange*. This word retains final *e* before -able, ar-range'a-ble.

ar'rant (notorious), distinguish from er'rand (a short trip, as to carry a message) and from er'rant (wandering).

ar-ret', not *array*. The word is French and designates an authoritative decree.

ar-rive', not *arive*. Compare ARISE.

ar'ro-gance, not *arogance*.

Ar'tax-erxes, not *Ar-tuksurksez*.

ar'te-ry, not *artury* or *artry*.

ar-te'sian, not *artezian*.

as (1. A Roman coin; 2. For example), distinguish from ass (a beast of burden).

as-cen'den-cy preferred to as-cen'dan-cy, but both are in use.

as-cen'dent preferred to as-cen'dant, but both are in use.

✓ as-cent (rising or climbing), distinguish from as-sent (to agree to).

ash'lar preferred to ash'ler, the etymological form.

As'nières', not *Anières*. Note that both *s*'s are silent.

as'per-ate (to make rough), distinguish from as'pi-rate (to utter with full breath).

as'phalt, not *asfalt*; so also with all its derivatives.

as-sas'sin, not *asassin*.

as-say' (an examination; a test), distinguish from es-say' (an attempt).

as-ser'tion, not *assurtion*.

as-sess'ment, not *assessment*.

✓ as-sess'or, not *assesser*.

as-sign'. This word and its derivatives are spelt with a silent *g*—as'sign-ee', as-sign'ment'.

As'si-ni-boi'a. A district of Canada.

as-sist'ance (help), distinguish from as-sist'ants (helpers). See -ANCE, p. 5.

as-so'ci-ate is pronounced as if spelt *a-so'she-ate*. Its derivative as-so'ci-a'tion is pronounced as spelt.

- as-suage', pronounced as a word of two syllables as if spelt a-swage', an obsolete form.
- as-sume' drops the *e* before -able, -ed and -ing, as in as-sum'a-ble, as-sumed', as-sum'ing.
- as-sump'tion, pronounced as if spelt a-sump'shon.
- as-sur'ance (not *assurence*), as-sure', as-sured' pronounced as if spelt *shur* in the second syllable.
- as-surgent, not *assergerit*.
- as'ter (a flower), distinguish from As'tor (family name).
- asth'ma. Note that the *th* in this word is silent as in all its derivatives. It is pronounced as if spelt *azma*.
- as'tro-fel, modern spelling of obsolete *astrophel*.
- a'sym-met'ric, not *assymmetric*.
- as'ym-ptote, the *p* is silent.
- a-syn'de-ton, not *asindeton*.
- a-syz'y-get'ic—the *g* as in *gem*, not *j*.
- At'a-lan'ta (Arcadian princess), distinguish from At-lan'ta (capital of Georgia).
- ate (imp. tense of *EAT*, *v.*). Pronounced as if written *et*.
- A'te (the goddess of mischief), distinguish from eigh'ty (fourscore).
- ath'e-næ'um, ath'e-ne'um. Both forms are in use; the first being favored in Great Britain, the second in the United States.
- ath'lete, not *athalete*.
- ath-let'ics, not *athaletics*.
- At-lan'ta. Distinguish from *ATALANTA*.
- at'mos-phere. In this word and its derivatives *ph* is pronounced as *f*, but see *PTHISIS*, *PHTHALEIN*.
- a-tro'cious. Note that the -cious is pronounced as if spelt -shus.
- a-troc'i-ty, the *c* here has the sound of *s*.
- at'ta'ché', pronounced a'ta'shay', but spelt as above.
- at-tend'ance (service; presence), distinguish from at-tend'ants (those attending). See -ANCE, -ANT, pp. 5-6.
- at-ten'tion, not *attenshon* or *attenshun*.
- at'tic, not *atic* or *attick*.
- at-tor'ney, not *atorney* or *atturney*.
- au'di-ble, not *audable*.
- au'ger (a tool), distinguish from au'gur (a soothsayer).
- aught (anything), distinguish from ought (should).
- aunt (relative), distinguish from ant (insect).

**au'ricle** (the external ear), distinguish from **or'acle** (a wise man).

**authography**. Misspelling of **or-thog'ra-phy**.

- **au'thor-is'a-ble**, **au'thor-i-sa'tion**, **au'thor-ise**.  
British forms of **au'thor-iz'a-ble**, **au'thor-i-za'tion**, **au'thor-ize**, preferred in the United States.

**au-toch'thon**. In this word and its derivatives in *-ic*, *-ism*, *-ist*, *-ous*, *ch* has the sound of *k*. Not *autocthon*.

**au-toc'ra-cy**, not **au-toc'rasy** (a spelling used in medicine).

**au-tom'a-ton** changes *on* to *a* in forming the plural: **au-tom'a-ta**.

**au'tumn**—the final *n* is silent but not dropped.

**aux-il'ia-ry**, not *auxiliary* or *auxillary*. This word is pronounced as if spelt *og-zil'i-a-ry*.

**a-vall'**, not *avale* or *avayle*.

- **a-veng'ing**, not *avengeing*.
- av'er-ag-ing**, not *averageing*.
- a-ver'sion**, not *aversion*.

**a'vi-a'tor**, not *aviater*.

**av'oir-du-pois**, not *averdupoise*.

- **awe drops** final *e* in the adjective and adverb: **aw'ful**, **aw'ful-ly**.

**awe** (reverence), distinguish from **oar** (a paddle), or (either), and **ore** (a mineral).

**aw'ful** (fearful), distinguish from **of'fal** (refuse).

**awl** (tool), distinguish from **all** (totality).

**ax**, **axe**. Both forms are in use, the modern tendency of simplification reverting to the Anglo-Saxon form.

**ax'is** changes *i* to *e* in forming the plural: **ax'es**.

**axle**, not *axel*.

**ay** (an expression of sorrow), distinguish from **aye** (affirmative) and from **eye** (the organ of sight).

**az'ure**, not *azhure* as pronounced.

## B

- b: In the spelling of some English words this letter is silent. For example, it is not pronounced when followed by *d*, as in *bedellium* (del'i-um). Final *b*, preceded by *m*, as in *bomb*, *crumb*, *dumb*, *tomb*, etc., is silent except in *rhomb*. It is also silent in certain unphonetic words such as *debt*, *doubt*, *subtle*, etc. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

**baptize.** Misspelling of BAPTIZE.

**ba'by** forms its plural by changing *y* into *ies*, **ba'bies** (see PLURALS OF NOUNS), but retains final *y* in the nouns **ba'by-hood**, **ba'by-ism**, and the adjective **ba'by-ish**.

**bac"ca-lau're-ate**, not *bacchalaureate*.

**bac"cha-na'li-a**, not *baccanalia*. Note the *h*.

**Bac'chus**, not *Baccus*. Note the *h*.

**bade** (ask, request), distinguish from **bad** (evil, wicked).

**bag** doubles the *g* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-age*, *-ed*, *-ing*; **bag'gage**, **bagged**, **bag'ging**.

**bag'gy** changes final *y* to *i* before *-ness*: **bag'gi-ness**.

**bail** (surety), distinguish from **bale** (a bundle of goods).

**bait** (an allurement), distinguish from **bate** (strife; contention; also, to blunt, reduce).

**baize** (a type of cloth), distinguish from **bays** (plural of BAY).

**bald** (without hair), distinguish from **bawled** (cried out).

**bale** (a bundle of goods), distinguish from **bail** (surety).

**ball** (anything round), distinguish from **bawl** (to cry out).

**bal'lad** (a song), distinguish from **bal'lot** (a secret vote).

**bal'let'**. Note the *t* which is not heard in pronunciation.

**balm** (a plant). Note that the *l* is silent (see *L*), and distinguish from **barn** (yeast). See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2.

**balm'y**. Note that *l* is silent and that final *y* changes to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness*: **balm'i-ly**, **balm'i-ness**.

**ba-nan'a**, not *bananna*.

**ban-dan'a**, **ban-dan'na**. Both forms are in use, but the second is more frequent and is in harmony with the pronunciation.

**ban"deau'**. Note the *eau* pronounced *o*—*bando*. For the plural, add *x* not *s*—**ban"deaux'**.

**ban'quet** (a feast), distinguish from **ban"quette'** (platform behind an earthwork in fortifications).

**bap'tize**, **bap'tise**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **bap'tized**, **bap'tiz-ing**.

**Bar-ba'dos**, not *Barbadoes*.

**bar'be-cue** or **bar'ba-cue**, not *barbicue*.

**bar'bet** (a bird; also a type of dog), distinguish from **bar-bette'** (a gun-platform or protective cylinder).

**bard** (a poet), distinguish from **barred** (marked with bars).

**bare** (devoid of covering), distinguish from **bear** (an animal; also, to carry).

**ba-rege'** (dress-goods), not to be confused with **bar'rage** (barrier).

**bar'i-tone**, a common spelling in belcanto circles, but see **BARYTONE**.

**bark**. This word designates the rind of a tree; the call of a dog, and a type of sea-vessel. Compare **BARQUE**.  
**barm** (yeast), distinguish from **balm** (a plant; also, solace).

**bar'na-cle**, not *barnicle* or *hernicle*.

**bar'on** (a nobleman), distinguish from **bar'ren** (unproductive).

**barque**. A former spelling of **BARK** (vessel).

**bar'rage** or **bar'rage'**—altho pronounced in two different ways the spelling is the same.

**bar'ra-tor** (a shipmaster guilty of barratry) is preferred to **bar'ra-ter**, formerly in vogue, not *barretor*.

**bar'ra-trous**, not *barratorous*.

**bar'ra-try** (injury to shipowners by a master), not *barretry*, which see.

**bar'red** (marked with bars; also, hindered), distinguish from **bard** (a poet).

**bar-reled**, **bar'relled**. Both forms are in use, the first being preferred in the United States; the second in Great Britain.

**bar'ren** (unproductive; unfruitful), distinguish from **bar'on** (a nobleman).

**bar're-tor** (an inciter of lawsuits), not **BARRATOR**, which see.

**bar're-try** (the exciting of lawsuits), not **BARRATRY**, with which it is commonly confused.

**bar'y-tone**, the spelling preferred by modern lexicographers, but **bar'i-tone** is also in use.

**base'** (bottom of anything), distinguish from **bass'** (lowest tone).

**ba'si-fy** (to change to a base by chemical process), not *baseify*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ba'si-fied**.

**ba'sin**, not *bason*.

**ba'sis** (*sing.*), distinguish from **ba'ses** (*plur.*).

**bask'** (to lie in warmth), distinguish from **hasque'** (a woman's garment; also [B-], a language).

**bas'-re-lief'**—the *s* of the first syllable is silent.

**bass** (deep tones of a voice or instrument), distinguish from **base** (bottom of anything).

**bas-tile'**, **bas-tille'**. Both forms are in use.

**bate** (strife; contention; also, blunt; reduce), distinguish from **bait** (an allurement).

**ba-tiste'**, not *baptiste*.

**bat-tal'i-on**, not *battalion*.

**bawl** (to cry out), distinguish from **ball** (anything round).

**bawled** (cried aloud), distinguish from **bald** (hairless).

**bay** (a part of the sea; also, a tree; the call of hounds), distinguish from **bey** (a Turkish officer).

**ba-zaar'** (a market; also, a fair, for charity), distinguish from **bi-zarre'** (fantastic; grotesque).

**bdel'li-um** (gum resin). Note that the *b* is silent.

**beach** (seashore), distinguish from **beech** (a tree).

**bea'con** (a directing light), distinguish from **beck'on** (to make signs).

**bead**, not *beed*.

**bea'dle** (an officer), distinguish from **bee'tle** (an insect; also, a mallet).

**beak**, not *beck*.

**bean** (a vegetable), distinguish from **been** (past participle of the verb *be*).

**bear** (to carry; also, an animal), distinguish from **bare** (devoid of covering).

**beat** (to strike), distinguish from **beet** (a vegetable).

**beau** (*sing.*), **beaux** (*plural*). Pronounced as if spelt *bo*. Compare **BEAUTY**.

**beau** (an admirer), distinguish from **bow** (a bent or curved weapon for shooting arrows).

**beau'te-ous**, not *beautious*.

**beau'ti-fy** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed*—in forming the past participle, **beau'ti-fied**, but *retains* the final *y* in the present participle, **beau'ti-fy'ing**.

**beau'ty**. Note that final *y* changes to *i* or *e* when a suffix is added; as in **beau'te-ous**, **beau'ti-ful**.

In some words from the French, as *beauty* and its derivatives, the digraph *ea* that is dropped in pronunciation, is retained in the spelling.

**beck'on** (to make signs), distinguish from **bea'con** (a directing light).

**bed'stead**, not *bedsted*.

**beech** (a tree), distinguish from **beach** (seashore).

**beef**, not *beaf* or *bief*. In the plural changes the final *f* to *ves* **beeves**. See **PLURALS OF NOUNS**, p. 14.

**been** (existed), distinguish from **bin** (a box).



- beer (a beverage), distinguish from bier (a carriage for the dead).
- beet (a vegetable), distinguish from beat (to strike).
- bee'tle (an insect), distinguish from bea'dle (an officer).
- beeves (plural of BEEF).
- beg *doubles* the *g* when it is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **begged**, **beg'ging**.
- be-get' *doubles* the *t* when it is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **be-get'ting**, **be-got'ten**.
- beg'gar, not *begger*.
- be-gin' *doubles* the *n* on taking a suffix beginning with a vowel, **be-gin'ner**, **be-gin'ning**.
- be-ha'vior, **be-ha'viour**. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- be-hoof' (advantage), distinguish from **be-hoove'** (needful).
- belle (a beautiful woman), distinguish from bell (a hollow metal sounding body).
- be-lief' (that which one believes), distinguish from believe' (*verb*). Note that in these words the digraph *ie* and not *ei* follows the *l*. See RULES, p. 9.
- ben'e-fice (a church living), distinguish from ben'e-fits (advantages).
- be-nef'i-cent, not *benificent*.
- ben'e-fi-ci-a-ry. Frequently mispronounced *beni'fishery*.
- ben'e-fit, does not double the *t* before *-ed* or *-ing* in **ben'e-fit-ed**, **ben'e-fit-ing**.
- be-nign', not *benine*. Note the *g* which is silent. Compare **ALINE**.
- Bern, Berne (a town in Switzerland), distinguish from burn (a burnt place; also, a brook).
- ber'ry (a small fruit), distinguish from bur'y (a borough, as in *Canterbury*; also, to put into the ground).
- ber'ry, the *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added in the plural, **ber'ries**. See RULES, p. 13.
- berth' (place to sleep), distinguish from birth' (coming into life).
- be-seech' (to entreat), distinguish from be-siege' (to lay siege to).
- be-set' takes an additional *t* before *-ing*: **be-set'ting**.
- be-siege', not *beseiged*. See RULES, p. 9.
- bet'ter (superior), distinguish from bet'tor (one who bets).
- bev'er-age, not *beveridge*.

**bey** (a Turkish officer), distinguish from **bay** (an arm of the sea; also, a laurel-tree).

**bi-an'nu-al** (occurring twice a year), distinguish from **bi-en'ni-al** (occurring every two years).

**bi'ased, bi'assed; bi'as-ing, bi'as-sing.** Both forms of these words are in use.

**bi'cy-cle**, not *bicycle*.

**bi-en'ni-al**, not *byennial*.

**bier** (a coffin or hearse), distinguish from **beer** (beverage).

**bight** (a small bay) distinguish from **bite** (to seize with the teeth).

**bin** (a box), distinguish from **been** (existed).

**birth** (coming into life), distinguish from **berth** (a place to sleep).

**bis'cuit.** Note the last syllable—pronounced *kii*.

**bi-sect'**, not *bissect*.

**bis-sex'tile**, not *bisextile*.

**bis-muth**, not *bismuth*.

**bite** (to seize with the teeth), distinguish from **bight** (a small bay).

**bi-zarre'** (grotesque), distinguish from **ba-zaar'** (a fair for charity).

**blame** drops the *e* before *-able, -ed, and -ing*; as **blam'a-ble**, not *blameable*; **blamed'**; **blam'ing**, not *blameing*.

**blanc"-mange'.** Note the *nc* that is dropped in the pronunciation.

**-ble** (suffix) drops final *e* before *-er* and *-ing*, but retains it before *-ment*. See **-ABLE, -IBLE**, p. 5.

**bless'ed**, distinguish from **blest**. Both forms are used.

**blew** (past tense of *blow*), distinguish from **blue** (a color).

**blond, blonde.** Note that the first of these is *masculine* and the second *feminine*—a *blond* man; a *blonde* woman.

**blot** doubles the *t* in **blot'ted, blot'ting**.

**blue** drops the *e* before *-ing* and *-ish*—**blu'ing** and **blu'ish** not *blueing, blueish*.

**boa** (a serpent), distinguish from **boar** (a male swine), and from **bore** (a hole; also, an annoying person).

**board** (a plank), distinguish from **bored** (pierced; also, annoyed).

**boar'der** (one who boards). Note the *a* in this word and distinguish it from **bor'der** (a boundary).

**boat** (a swimming vessel), distinguish from **bote** (compensation).

**bod'ice** (the waist of a woman's dress), distinguish from **bod'ies** (plural of body).

**bold** (daring), distinguish from **bowled** (imperfect tense of BOWL).

**bold'er** (more daring), distinguish from **boul'der** (a large stone).

**bole** (the trunk of a tree), distinguish from **bowl** (a hollow vessel).

**bo'na fi'de**. Two words of which each syllable is pronounced—not *bonafied*.

**bor'der** (a boundary), distinguish from **boar'der** (one who boards).

**bore** (a hole), distinguish from **boa** (a serpent), and **boar** (a male swine).

**bored** (annoyed), distinguish from **board** (a plank).

**born** (come into life), distinguish from **borne** (carried; supported), **bourn** (a limit or boundary), and **bourne** (a stream).

**bor'row** (obtain as a loan), distinguish from **bur'row** (a rabbit's hole for shelter).

**bor'ough** (a corporate town), distinguish from **bur'row** (a hole for shelter).

**bough** (a branch of a tree), distinguish from **bow** (to bend in courtesy).

**bought**. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent.

**boul'der** (a large stone), distinguish from **bold'er** (more daring).

**bound'a-ry**, not *boundery*, or *boundry*.

**boun'ty**. The *y* changes to *e* before *-ous* and to *i* before *-ful*, as in **boun'te-ous**, **boun'ti-ful**.

**bou'quet**, not *bookay*, as it is pronounced.

**bourn** (a limit or boundary), distinguish from **bourne** (a stream), **borne** (carried), and **born** (come into life).

**bow<sup>1</sup>** (an inclination of the body), distinguish from **bough** (a branch of a tree).

**bow<sup>2</sup>** (for shooting arrows), distinguish from **beau** (a lover, a dandy).

**bowl** (a hollow vessel), distinguish from **bole** (the trunk of a tree).

**bowled** (did bowl), distinguish from **bold** (daring).

**boy** (a male child), distinguish from **buoy** (a floating mark).

**brace** (strengthen), distinguish from **braise** or **braize** (to cook).

**braid** (a flat cord; also, to weave), distinguish from **brayed** (past tense of *bray*).

**brake** (to stop with a brake; also, a thicket), distinguish from **break** (to split; separate).

**brake'man**, not *breakman*.

**breach'** (gap), distinguish from **breech'** (hinder part of a gun, etc.).

**bread** (an article of food), distinguish from **bred** (reared).

**breadth** (width), distinguish it from **breath** (respiration).

**break**. See **BRAKE**.

**breast** (the upper front part of the body), distinguish from **Brest** (a French seaport).

**breath**. See **BREADTH**.

**bred**. See **BREAD**.

**breth'ren**, not *bretheren*, as commonly misspelled.

**brewed** (did brew), distinguish from **brood** (cherish; nurse).

**brew'ing** (making beer), distinguish from **bru'in** (a bear).

**brew'is** (thick broth), distinguish from **brews** (does *brew*), and **bruise** (contusion).

**bric'-a-brac'**, not *brick-a-brack*.

**brid'al** (a marriage festival), distinguish from **bri'dle** (a check-rein, a curb).

**bridge**. Note that the *d* in this word is not heard when the word is pronounced.

**brief**, not *breif*. See **IE**, p. 9.

**brig'a-dier'**, not *brigadeir*.

**bright**. Note *gh* is silent when the word is pronounced. See also other words below.

**bright'en** (to make bright), distinguish from **Brigh'ton** (a town).

**bric'quette'**, not *bricket*.

**Brit'ain** (the country), distinguish from **Briton** (a native of the country).

**Bri-tan'ni-a**, not as commonly misspelled *Brittania*. The correct spelling for the metal is **Britannia metal**.

**Brit'i-cism**, not *Britticism*.

**broach** (to give out; to pierce), distinguish from **brooch** (a breast-pin).

**broad**. Note the digraph *oa* in this word.

**Brob'ding-nag'i-an**, not *Brobdignagian*.

**broc'co-li**, not *brocoli*.

**bro"ché'** (brocaded), distinguish from **bro"chet'** (a fish).

Note that both words are pronounced alike.

**bro'ker-age** is preferred to **bro'kage**, but both are in use.

**bron-chi'tis**. Note that in this word, and its derivatives, *ch* is pronounced *k*.

**brooch** (a breast-pin), distinguish from **broach** (a boring-tool).

**brood** (cherish, nurse), distinguish from **brewed** (prepared by steeping).

**broth'er** changes its form in the plural to **breth'ren**. See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.

**brough**. This combination of letters has several sounds in English which frequently lead to misspelling. Alone it is pronounced *bruf* or *bruch*; in combination *brew*, as in *brougham*; *bro*, as in *Brougham*; *brow*, as in *Broughton*, and *braw*, as in *Broughty Ferry*. But all are spelt *brough*.

**brows** (plural of brow), distinguish from **browse** (to feed on leaves).

**bru'in** (a bear), distinguish from **brew'ing** (making of beer).

**bruise** (a contusion), distinguish from **brews** (to form or gather), and **brew'is** (thick broth).

**bruit** (to noise abroad), distinguish from **brute** (inhuman).

**bru'tal-ize**, not *brutalise*.

**brute**. Distinguish from **BRUIT**.

**buck'ram**, not *buckrom*.

**Bud'dha**, not *Bhudda*.

**Bue'nos Ai'res**, not *Buenos Ayres*.

**buf'fa-lo**, not *buffaloe* or *buffelo*. To form the plural *es* is added: **buf'fa-loes**.

**bug'gy**, in the plural the final *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added: **bug'gies**.

**buisness**. Misspelling of **business**.

**bul'le-tin**, not *bulletin* or *bulletine*.

**bul'lion**. Note the two *l's* in the word, which is pronounced as if spelt *bulyon*.

**buoy** (a floating mark), distinguish from **boy** (a male child).

**burn** (to consume by fire; also, a brook), distinguish from **Bern** (a Swiss town).

**burn'ed**, **burnt**. Both forms are used.

- bur'ro** (a small donkey), distinguish from **bur'row** (a hole made by a rabbit for shelter).  
**bur'row** (a hole for shelter), distinguish from **bor'ough** (a corporate town).  
**burst** (to break open), distinguish from **bust** (half-length statue).  
**burst.** The past tense of this verb is *burst*, not *bursted* or *bust*, which is a vulgarism. See **BUST**.  
**bur'y** (to put under the ground), distinguish from **ber'ry** (a small fruit).  
**bus'i-ness**, not *buisness*. Note that this word is a derivative of **bus'y** and that before *-ness* and *-ly* the *y* changes to *i*—**bus'i-ly**.  
**but** (unless, except), distinguish from **butt** (a cask; also, a mark).  
**buy** (to purchase) distinguish from **by** (a preposition), and **bye** (secondary; as, a *bye*-election).  
**Bzu'ra.** Note that this word is not spelt as it is pronounced—*psu'ra*.

## C

- c:** In certain English words this letter has the sound of *k*, before *a*, *o*, *u*, *l*, and *r*, and the sound of *s* before *e*, *i*, *y*, *æ*. Final *c*, as in *music*, is always hard. When combined with *h* the letter *c* has three different sounds: (1) the sound commonly indicated phonetically by the consonantal triphthong *tsh* (and in this book by the diphthong *ch*, heard in *chair*, *child*, *church*, etc.; (2) the sound usually indicated by *sh*, heard in *chaise*, *chevron*, *chicane*, etc.; (3) the sound of *k*, especially in words derived from Gr. as *chalcedony*, *character*, *chiroprapist*, etc. In certain other combinations, as *schedule*, *school*, etc., *ch* has the sound of *k* in the United States. Sometimes *ch* is silent as in *schism*, *yacht*. There are also words in which *c*, when preceded by *s* and followed by *ep*, is pronounced as *k*, as in *sceptic*, which nowadays is frequently spelled phonetically, *skeptic*; and other words in which it is silent, as in *scepter*. *C* is silent also in many other words, as in *czar*, *indict*, *muscle*, *scene*, *virtuals*, etc. See **c**, pp. 2, 6.
- ca-ca'o** (seed of the chocolate-tree), distinguish from **co'coa** (the powder made from the seed of the chocolate-tree). See **coco**.
- cæ-su'ra, ce-su'ra.** Both forms are in use.

- ca'fé'.** In the writing of this word the final *e* should always be accented.
- ca'ffé-line**, not *caffine*. Always a word of three syllables, but commonly mispronounced as if written *caffeen*.
- Cain** (a man's name), distinguish from **cane** (a staff, a reed).
- cais'son**, not *caison* or *cason*.
- cal'ci-mine**, not *calsomine* or *kalsomine*.
- ca'len-dar** (an almanac), distinguish from **ca'lender** (a machine for pressing cloth or paper).
- calf.** Note that the *l* in this word is silent and that in the plural final *f* changes to *ves*—**calves**.
- cal'i-ber**, not *calliber*.
- cal'i-pers**, not *cullipers*.
- calk, caulk.** In both these forms the *l* is silent.
- calk** (to stop a leak in a ship), distinguish from **cork** (a stopper for a bottle).
- call** (to name, to visit), distinguish from **caul** (a membrane).
- cal-lig'ra-phy**, not *caligraphy*.
- Cal-li'o-pe**, not *Caliope*.
- cal'lis-then'ics**, not *calisthenics*.
- cal'lous** (hardened), distinguish from **cal'lus** (hardened tissue).
- calm, calm-ly, calm-ness.** In the pronunciation of these words the *l* is silent.
- Cal'va-ry**, not *calvery*.
- calves.** Plural of **CALF**, not *calfs*.
- ca-mel'o-pard**, not *cameleopard*.
- cam'e-o.** The plural is formed by adding *s*, not *es*.
- cam'er-a**, not *camara*.
- cam'o-mile**, not *cammomile*.
- cam-pagne'** (a narrow edging for lace), distinguish from **cam'paign** (a series of military operations). The *g* is silent in both words.
- cam'pa-ni'le**, not *campanilly*.
- Camp'bell.** This proper name is not pronounced as it is spelt. The *p*—and sometimes the *b*—is silent and the name is pronounced *kamel* or *kambel*.
- cam'phor**, not *camfor*.
- ca-na'ry**, to form the plural change the final *y* to *i* and add *es*; **ca-na'ries**. See RULES, p. 13.
- can'cel-a'tion** (to strike out), distinguish from **can'cel-la'tion** (a reticulation).

**can'celed, can'celled; can'cel-ing, can'cel-ling.** Both forms are in use.

**can'died** (preserved), distinguish from **can'did** (frank).

**can'dor, can'dour.** Both forms are in use, the first in the United States; the second in Great Britain.

**cane** (a staff, a reed), distinguish from **Cain** (a man's name).

**can'non** (a gun), distinguish from **can'on** (a law or rule) and **can'yon** (a ravine).

**can"non"eer', can-non-ier'.** Both forms are in use.

**can not.** Properly two words, but commonly written *cannot*, which is incorrect, for *can* is a verb positive. In Old English, the negative form was *ne can*.

**can'on-ize**, not *cannonize*.

**can'ta-loup**, not *cantaloupe*.

**can'ti-lev"er**, not *cantalever*.

**can'vas** (a kind of cloth), distinguish from **can'vass** (to solicit orders). The participles are written **can'vased** or **can'vassed, can'vas-ing** or **can'vas-sing**.

**can'vass-er**, not *canvasser*.

**can'yon** (a ravine), distinguish from **can'on** (a law or rule) and **can'non** (a gun).

**cap'i-tal** (money invested; chief city in the state; government seat), distinguish from **Cap'i-tol** (the official building of Congress; also, a State house).

**cap'tor** (one who seizes), distinguish from **cap'ture** (a seizure).

**Ca-rac'as** (a city, capital of Venezuela), distinguish from **car'cass** (a dead body of an animal).

**car'at** (a jeweler's weight), distinguish from **ca'ret** (a symbol used to denote an omission) and **car'rot** (a vegetable).

**car'a-van'sa-ry, -se-ra, -se-rai, -ser-y.** All forms are in use but the first is preferred.

**car'bu-ret"er, car'bu-ret"or, car'bu-ret"ter.** All forms are in use but the first is preferred.

**car'cass, car'case** (a dead body of an animal), distinguish from **Ca-rac'as** (a city, capital of Venezuela).

**care** retains the *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **care'ful, care'less**.

**car'go.** The plural is formed by adding *es* not *s*. See RULES, p. 12, §II.

**car'oled, car'olled; car'ol-ing, car'ol-ling.** Both forms are in use but the first in each case is preferred.



**car'ry** retains the final *y* in the present participle **car'ry-ing**, but the *y* changes to *i* before *-age*, *-ed*, and *-er*: **car'riage**, **car'ried**, **car'ri-er**.

**cart** (a vehicle), distinguish from **carte** (a bill of fare; also, a position in fencing).

**cart'age**, not *cartedge* or *cartidge*.

**carte blanche**, not *cart blank*.

**carte'-de-visite'**, not *cart-de-visit*.

**cash-ier**, not *cashere*.

**cash-mere'**. See **CASSIMERE**.

**cask** (a barrel), distinguish from **casque** (a helmet).

**cason**. Misspelling of **cais'son**.

**cas'si-mere** (a woolen cloth for men's wear), distinguish from **cash'mere** (a woolen dress-fabric for women's wear).

**cast** (an object made in a mold), distinguish from **caste** (a class, a tribe).

**cast'er'** (a cruet), distinguish from **cas'tor'** (a beaver).

**cas'u-al-ty** (a fatal accident), distinguish from **causality** (cause and effect).

**cat'a-clasm** (a violent disruption or breaking asunder), distinguish from **cat'a-clysm** (an overwhelming flood). The latter term is frequently erroneously used for any sudden overwhelming change.

**cat'a-lep-sy**, not *catelepsy*.

**cat'a-lo**. This is a telescope word made from *cat* of "cattle" and *-alo* of "buffalo". Not *catalow* or *cattelo*.

**cat'a-log**, **cat'alogue**. Both forms are in use and have been in use side by side since 1500.

**cat'a-ma-ran'**, not *katamaran*, altho Anglicized from the *kattay maray* of the Tamils.

**ca-tarrh**, not *cattarrh*. Note that the final *rh* is not heard in speech. See **RH**.

**ca-tas'tro-phe**, not *catastrophy*.

**catch** (a taking, as of fish), distinguish from **ketch** (a sailing-vessel).

**cat'e-chism**, not *catachism*.

**cat'e-chize**, not *catachize*.

**cat'e-chu'men**. Note that the *chu* of this word is pronounced *ku*. Not *catachumen*.

**ca'ter-cor'nered**, not *cattacornered* as pronounced.

**cat'er-pil'lar**, not *catarpillar*.

**ca-thol'i-cize**, not *catholacise*.

**caught.** Note that the *ugh* is silent.

**caul** (a membrane), distinguish from **call** (to name; to visit).

**cau'li-flow"er**, not *collyflower* or *collieflower*.

**cau-sal'i-ty** (cause and effect), distinguish from **cas'u-al-ty** (a fatal accident).

**cause** (a reason), distinguish from **caws** (cries of a crow).

**cau'ter-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **cau'ter-ized**, **cau'ter-iz"ing**.

**cav"a-lier'** (a knight), not *cavaleer* or *cavelier*. Distinguish from **cav'il-er** (one who objects).

**cav'al-ry**, not *cav'el-rie*.

**cav'il-er** (one who objects), not *caviller*. Distinguish from **cav'a-lier** (a horseman).

**cease** (to stop), distinguish from **seas** (plural of *sea*) and **seize** (to take hold of).

**cease** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming participles **ceased**, **ceasing**.

**ceased** (stopped), distinguish from **seized** (held).

**ce'dar** (a tree), distinguish from **ce'der** (one who gives up).

**cede** (to give up), distinguish from **seed** (to sow; scatter).

**ceil** (to line the top of a room), distinguish from **seal** (an impression in wax; also, an animal). See EI, p. 7.

**ceil'ing**, not *cieling*. See EI, p. 7.

**cel'er-y** (a plant), distinguish from **sal'a-ry** (wages).

**cell** (a small chamber), distinguish from **sell** (dispose of by sale).

**cel'lar** (a room underground), distinguish from **sell'er** (one who sells).

**cem'e-ter-y** (a burial ground), distinguish from **sym'me-try** (harmony of parts).

**cense** (to burn incense), distinguish from **sense** (to feel).

**cen'ser** (incense pan), distinguish from **cen'sor** (official examiner).

**cen'sus** (an official record), distinguish from **sen'ses** (the five faculties of sensation in man).

**cent** (a small coin), distinguish from **scent** (an odor), and **sent** (did send).

**Cen'taur**, not *Centor*.

**cen'tau-ry** (a plant), distinguish from **cen'tu-ry** (a hundred years).

**cen'ten'ni-al**, not *centenial*.

**cen'tre**, **cen'tre**. Both forms are in use, the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**cen'tral-ize**, not *centeralize*.

**cen'tu-ry** (a hundred years), distinguish from **sen'try** (a guard).

**ce'rate** (a salve), distinguish from **ser'rate** (saw-like).

**cere'** (to wax), distinguish from **sear'** (to burn the surface), **seer'** (prophet), **sere'** (dry, withered).

**ce're-al** (a grain), distinguish from **se'ri-al**, (a connected succession).

**cere'ment** (a shroud), distinguish from **sere'ment** (an oath).

**ce're-ous** (waxen), distinguish from **se'ries** (succession), **se'ri-ous** (grave, solemn), and **Sir'i-us** (a star).

**cer'ti-o-ra'ri**. Note that this is a word of five syllables pronounced as if spelt *sershiorary*.

**ces'sion** (surrender, assignment), distinguish from **ses'sion** (an organized body or the time of its sitting).

**ch**: A consonantal digraph which, in English has the following sounds:

(1) *tsh*, as heard in *archbishop*, *chair*, *chess*, *cheese*, *child*, *chop*, *church*, etc.

(2) *sh*, as heard in *chaise*, *chemise*, *Chicago*.

(3) *k*, as heard in *archangel*, *chemist*, *mechanic*, *monarch*.

(4) *kw* or *qu*, as heard in *choir*.

(5) *ge* in *spinach* (spinage).

In common spelling *ch* is represented by

(1) *ch*, initial, as in *chance*; final, as in *beech*.

(2) *tch*, medial, as in *satchel*, *pitcher*; final, as in *batch*, *ketch*, *itch*, *botch*.

(3) *ch* in *lch*, *nch*, final, as in *filch*, *lunch*, etc., and commonly pronounced, *lsh*, *nsh*.

(4) *te*, unaccented, as in *righteous*; *ti* in *tion*, unaccented as in *question*.

(5) *tu*, unaccented, as in *nature*.

**cha-grin'** (to humiliate), distinguish from **sha-green'** (rough skin of various fishes).

**chaise** (a carriage), distinguish from **chase** (to hunt).

**chal-ced'o-ny**. Pronounced as if spelt *kalsedony*.

**chalk**. In this word and its derivative **chalk'i-ness**, **chalk'y**, the *l* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 21.

**cham-pagne** (an effervescent wine), distinguish from **cham-paign**, (flat or open ground). Compare CAMPAIGN.

**cham'per-ty**, not *champarty*.

**chance** (accident), distinguish from **chants** (melodies).

**chan'cel-lor**, not *chancellor*. See COUNCILOR; COUNSELOR.

**chan"de-lier'**, not *chandalier*.

**change** retains final *e* before *-ability*, *-able*, *-ableness*, *-ful*, *-fully*, *-fulness*; as, **change'a-bil'i-ty**, **change'a-ble**, etc.

**chair** (a movable seat), distinguish from **chare** (work by the day).

**cha'os**. Pronounced as if written *kayos*.

**chap'er-on**, not *chaperone*. Pronounced as if spelt *shaperon*.

**char'ac-ter**, not *character*, its early historic form.

**char'ac-ter-ize**, **char'ac-ter-ise**. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain. See CHARACTER.

**charge** retains the final *e* in the adjective **charge'a-ble**.

**char"gé' d'affaires'**. Pronounced as if spelt *sharjay d'affair*.

**char'la-tan**, not *charletan*.

**Cha-ryb'dis**. Pronounced as if spelt *Caribdis*.

**chase** (a hunt), distinguish from **chaise** (a carriage).

**chased** (ornamented), distinguish from **chaste** (pure).

**chasm**. In this word *ch* has the sound of *k*. See CH.

**chas'sis** (*singular*) does not change in the plural **chas'sis** (*plural*).

**chaste** (pure), distinguish from **chased** (ornamented).

**chas-tise'**, **chas-tize'**. Both forms are in use but the first predominates.

**Cha"teau'-Thier"ry'**. A town in France where the United States Army defeated the Germans, June-July, 1918.

Note that the *h* in the second element is silent. See H.

**Chat"ta-noo'ga**, not *Chatanwooga*.

**chat'tel**, not *chatel* or *chattle*. This term, designating movable personal goods, altho derived from the Norman *catel*, later *cattel*, and ultimately *cattle*, is to be distinguished from the last of these, which is now restricted to live-stock.

**check**, **cheque**. Both forms are in use. The first is preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**che-nille'**, not *cheneille*.

**cher'ry** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **cher'ries**.

**chest'nut.** Note that in pronunciation the first *t* in the word is silent.

**Chev'i-ot,** not *Cheeviat* or *Sherviat* as pronounced  
**chews** (does chew), distinguish from **choose** (select).

**Chey-enne'**, not *Shyenne*, as pronounced.

**chia'ro-scu'ro.** Note that the *chia* is pronounced as one syllable.

**chief,** not *chief*. Note that to form the plural final *f* is retained and the letter *s* added—**chiefs**. See **IE**, p. 9.

**chief'tain,** not *chieftan*.

**chif'fon,** not *shiffon* altho the *ch* is pronounced as if it were *sh*.

**chif'fo-nier'**, not as pronounced, *sheffoneer*.

**chil'blain,** not *chillblain* or *chilblane*.

**child** adds *-ren* to form the plural **chil'dren**. See **RULES**, p. 13.

**Chi'le,** not *Chili*.

**Chi-me'ra,** not as pronounced *Kymecra*.

**chim'ney,** not *chimny*, *chimly*, or *chimbly*.

**chi-rog'ra-phy,** not *cheirography*. Here *ch* is pronounced as *k*; see **CH**.

**chi-rop'o-dist,** not *cheiropodist*. Here *ch* is pronounced as *k*; see **CH**.

**chis'eled,** **chis'elled**. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**chlo'ral,** **chlo'rid,** **chlo'ride,** **chlo'rin,** **chlo'ro-form.**  
Note that these words are not spelt as pronounced, *ch* having the sound of *k*.

**chock'full'**, not *chockful*.

**choc'o-late,** not *chocalate*.

**choir** (a body of trained singers; formerly, also *quire*); distinguish from **quire** (twentieth part of a ream of paper).

**chol'er,** pronounced *coller* (anger, wrath): distinguish from **col'lar** (neck-piece).

**choose,** not *chuse*, altho both forms were used in the Bible of 1611 and by Shakespeare. The latter (*chuse*) is now obsolete.

**chord** (a harmonious combination of musical tones), distinguish from **cord** (a string).

**chose.** There are two words of the same spelling but different pronunciations: (1) personal property, pronounced *shoze*; (2) selected, pronounced *tshoze*.

**chough** (a bird), distinguish from **chuff** (a clown).

**Christ**, not *Crist*. The *ch* is pronounced as *k* and dates from about 1500. In Middle English this name and its derivatives and allied terms were spelt *Crist*, *Cristen*, *Cristiante*, etc.

**chris'ten**. Note that *ch* has the sound of *k* and that the *t* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

**Christ'mas**. Note that *ch* has the sound of *k* and that the *t* is silent.

**chrom-**, **chroma-**, **chro-mat'ic**, **chrome**, **chro'mi-um**, **chro'mo-**, **chron'ic**, **chro'no-**, **chron'o-graph**, **chro-nol'o-gy**, **chro-nom'e-ter**, **chrys'a-lis**, **chrys-an'the-mum**. In all these words initial *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.

**chrys-an'the-mum**, not *chrysanthemon*.

**chrys'o-lite**, not *crysolite*.

**chute** (an inclined trough), distinguish from **shoot** (a young plant).

**cieling**. Misspelling of **ceiling**.

**ci-gar'**, not *segar*.

**cig'a-rette'**, not *cigaret*, which altho introduced thirty years ago has made very little headway.

**ci-li'cious** (made of hair), distinguish from **si-li'ceous** (flinty).

**Ci'mon** (an Athenian general), distinguish from **Si'mon** (the apostle Peter).

**Cin'cin-na'ti**, not *Cincinnati*.

**cin-cho'na**. Not pronounced as it is spelt. The *c* is pronounced *s*, and *ch* pronounced *k*—*sinkona*.

**cin'gle** (a girth), distinguish from **sin'gle** (alone).

**Cin'na** (a Roman consul), distinguish from **sin'ner** (an evil-doer).

**cin'na-mon**, not *cinamon*.

**cinque** (five), distinguish from **sink** (to fall down).

**ci'pher**, not *cypher*, an obsolete form.

**cir'cum-cise**, not *circumcize*.

**cite** (to quote), distinguish from **sight** (a view) and **site** (a place).

**cit'y** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **cit'ies**.

**clack** (chatter; babble), distinguish from **claque** (professional applauders used in theaters, etc.).

**claim'ant** (one who claims), distinguish from **clam'ant** (beseeching).

**clam'or, clam'our.** Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**clan** *doubles* the final *n* before a suffix beginning with a vowel—**clan'nish**.

**claque.** Distinguish from **CLACK**.

**cla'queur'**, not **clack'er**. See **CLACK**.

**clar'i-fy** *changes* *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-er*; as in **clar'i-fied**, **clar'i-fi'er**, but retains the *y* before *-ing* in **clar'i-fy'-ing**.

**clas'si-cism**, not *classisizm*.

**clas'si-cize**, not *classisize*.

**clause** (part of a sentence), distinguish from **claws** (the talons of a bird of prey).

**clay** *takes* *ey* to form the adjective **clay'ey**.

**clean**, not *cleen*, a form used from the 14th to the 17th century.

**clean'ly**, not *clenly*, as pronounced.

**clear'ance**, not *clearence*. See **-ANCE**, p. 5.

**clear'sto'ry, clere'sto'ry.** Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**cleek, cleik** (a golf club; also, a clutch), distinguish from **clique** (a faction; also, a gang).

**klep'to-ma'ni-a**, variant form of **klep'to-ma'ni-a**, which is preferred.

**clew.** See **CLUE**.

**cli'en-tele'**, not *clienteel*. In French, **cli'en'tèle'**.

**cli-mac'tic** (pertaining to a climax), distinguish from **climatic** (pertaining to climate).

**climb** (an ascent), distinguish from **clime** (a region, climate).

**close** (a lane), distinguish from **clothes** (articles of dress).

**cloth** (a texture of wool), distinguish from **clothe** (to dress). Compare preceding entry.

**clue**, not *clew*.

*Clew* was long the most common spelling, but simple *u* has prevailed after *l* and *r* in pronunciation, and the spelling *clue*, like *blue*, *true*, etc., is now used for the figurative meanings. In the literal and nautical senses of the word the old form, *clew*, is retained.

**clum'sy**, not *clumzy*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness*: **clum'si-ly, clum'si-ness**.

**coal** (a mineral), distinguish from **cole** (a variety of cabbage).

**coaled** (supplied with coal), distinguish from **cold** (not warm).

**co" a-lesce'**, not *coalesce*.

**coarse** (rough). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **course** (a career; a race), **corse** (a dead body).

**coars'er** (comparative of **coarse**), distinguish from **cours'er** (a swift horse).

**coat** (a part of dress), distinguish from **cote** (a sheepfold).

**cocks'comb"**. Note that the *b* is silent. See **COXCOMB**.

**co'co**. The tree that produces coco-nuts. Distinguish from **CACAO** and **COCOA**.

**cod'dling** (pampering; also, parboiling), distinguish from **cod'ling** (a young cod; also, a variety of apple).

**cod'i-fy**. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed*: **cod'i-fied**.

**co-erce**, not *coerse*; **co-erc'ing**, not *coersing*.

**co-erc'i-ble**, **co-er'cive**, not *coersible*, *coersive*. See **-IBLE** and **-IVE**, pp. 9, 10.

**cof'fer** (a strong box), distinguish from **cough'er** (one who coughs).

**co-he'sion**, not *cohesion*.

**coif'feur** (a hair-dresser), not *coiffur*.

**coiffure** (head-dress or mode of dressing the hair), not *coiffeure*.

**coign** (a corner), distinguish from **coin** (a piece of money).

**co-la'tion** (the act of straining), distinguish from **col-la'tion** (a repast).

**cold**, not warm, distinguish from **coaled** (supplied with coal).

**cole** (a cabbage), distinguish from **coal** (a mineral).

**col'lar** (for the neck), distinguish from **chol'er** (anger, wrath).

**col-late**, not *colate*.

**col-la'tion** (a report), distinguish from **co-la'tion** (the act of straining).

**col'league**. Note that the final *ue* is silent.

**Co-lom'bi-a** (a Republic in South America), distinguish from **Co-lum'bi-a** (the personification of the United States).

**colo'nel** (a regimental commander), distinguish from **ker'-nel** (the heart of a nut).

**col'or** (a hue), distinguish from **cul'ler** (one who selects).

**col'ter**, **coul'ter**. Both spellings are in use, the former being preferred.

**col'umn**. Note the *n*, which is not heard when the word is pronounced. See **N** and **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3.



**com'e-dy**, not *commedy*.

**com'fit** (a dry sweetmeat), distinguish from **com'fort** (ease).

**com'ing** (approaching), distinguish from **cum'in** (a plant).

**com'i-ty** (civility), distinguish from **com-mit'tee** (a body of managers).

**com-mence** (begin), distinguish from **com-ments** (observations).

**com-mit'** doubles the final *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, **com-mit'tal**, **com-mit'tee**.

**com'mon-al-ty**, not *commonality*.

**com'mune** (*n.*) and **commune'** (*v.*) are spelt the same way but pronounced differently.

**com'pass**, not *compas*.

**com'pass-a-ble**, not *compassible*. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.

**com-pat'i-ble**, not *compatable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

**com-pel'** doubles the final *l* before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **com-pel'la-ble**, **com-pel'led**, **com-pel'ling**.

**com'pel-la'tion** (an address or form of address), distinguish from **com'pi-la'tion** (a literary production collected from other writings).

**com-pen'di-ous**, not *compendious*.

**com'pe-tence**, not *compelense*. See **-ENCE**, p. 8.

**com'pe-tent**, not *compitent*.

**com-pet'i-tor**, not *competitor*.

**com-pla'cence** (self-satisfaction), distinguish from **com'-plai-sance'** (politeness). See **-ANCE**, p. 5, and **-ENCE**, p. 9.

**com-plain'**, not *complane*.

**com'ple-ment** (fulness), distinguish from **com'pli-ment'** (praise).

**com-plete'**, not *compleat*.

**com-plex'ion**, not *complection*.

**com-pose'**, not *compose*.

**com'pre-hen'si-ble**, not *comprehensable*. See **RULES**, p. 9.

**com-press'i-ble**, not *compressable*. See **RULES**, p. 9.

**com-prise'**, **com-prize'**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred. See **RULES**, p. 9.

**com'pro-mise**, not *compromise*. See **RULES**, p. 9.

**comp-trol'ler**. A common official spelling based on a false derivation. See **CONTROLLER**.

**con-cede'** (to yield to demand), not *conceed*. Distinguish from **con-ceit'** (overweening self-esteem). See **RULES**, p. 6.

**con-ceit'**, not *conciēt*. See EI, p. 7.

**con-ceive**, not *concieve*. See RULES, p. 7.

**con-ceiv'a-ble**, not *conceiveable* or *conceivable*.

**con'cept**, not *consept*.

**con'cert** (*n.*), **con-cert'** (*v.*), are spelt the same way but pronounced differently.

**con'cert** (a musical performance), distinguish from **con'-sort** (a companion).

**con-ces'sion** (a grant), distinguish from **con-ses'sion** (a joint session or sitting together).

**conch**. The *ch* is pronounced as *k* in this word and its derivatives **con'choid**, **con-choi'd'al**, **con-chol'o-gy**. See CH-.

**concieve**. Misspelling of **CONCEIVE**.

**con'crete**, not *concreet*. Compare **DISCREET**.

**con-cur'** *doubles* the final *r* before a suffix beginning with a vowel; **con-curred'**, **con-cur'ence**, **con-cur'-ring**.

**con-demn'**. The final *n* is silent. See N.

**con'de-scend'**. Note that the *c* in the last syllable is silent. See SC.

**con'de-scen'sion**, not *condescention*. The second *c* is silent.

**con-dign'**. Note the *g* which is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and G.

**con-do'lence**, not *condolense*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**con-du'cive**, not *condusive*.

**con-fec'tion-a-ry** (pertaining to sweetmeats or to a confectioner's shop), distinguish from **con-fec'tion-er-y** (sweetmeats or a shop where they are sold).

**con-fer'** *doubles* the *r* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **con-fer'ra-ble**, **con-ferred'**, **con-fer'rer**, **con-fer'ring**. Exception: **con'fer-ence**, but in this word stress is on the first syllable.

**con'fi-dant'** (one in whom another reposes confidence), distinguish from **con'fi-dent** (having confidence; self-reliant). See SUFFIXES, p. 6.

**con'fi-dante'**. Feminine of **CONFIDANT**.

**con'frère'**. A colleague.

**con'gé'** (dismissal), distinguish this French word from **con-gee** (to make a bow; also, dismissal).

**con-geal'**, not *congeel*.

**Con'naught**. A province of Ireland. Note the spelling of the last syllable—not *Connought*.

**Con-nect'i-cut**. Note the *c* in the second syllable.

- con'nois-seur'.** Note the unusual spelling of the last two syllables. A word taken from the French which is pronounced as if spelt *kon'i-sur*.
- con'quer-or,** not *conquerer*.
- con'science.** Note that the second syllable, altho spelt like the word "science," is pronounced as if it were spelt *shens*. See *sc*.
- con'sci-en-tious,** not *consciencious*.
- con-sen'sus,** not *concensus*.
- con-ses'sion** (a joint session or sitting together), distinguish from **con-ces'sion** (a grant).
- con-sign'.** Note the *g* which is silent in this word and its derivatives: **con-sign'a-ble**, **con'sign-ee'**, **con-sign'er**, **con-sign'ment**, **con'sign-or'**, but heard in **con'sig-na'tion** and **con-sig-na-to-ry**.
- con'sole** (a bracket), distinguish from **con'sul** (an official commercial representative of one country in another).
- con'sole** (to cheer in distress), distinguish from **coun'sel** (to advise).
- con-sols** (British government securities, "consolidated annuities"), distinguish from **con'suls** (official commercial representatives in foreign countries).
- con'so-nance** (accord or harmony of sounds), distinguish from **con'so-nants** (letters whose proper sounds are pronounceable without the aid of vowels). See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- con'sort.** See under **CONCERT**.
- con-spire'** drops the *e* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel as: **-acy**, **-ant**, **-ator**, **-er**. **con-spir'a-cy**, **con-spir'ant**, **con-spir'a-tor**, **con-spir'er**.
- con'strude** drops the *e* when before **-ing**: **con'stru-ing**.
- con'sue-tude.** Note the second syllable which is pronounced *swi*—the *i* is short.
- con'sul** (a commercial representative of a government in a country foreign to his own), not to be confused with **coun'sel** (an adviser) or with **coun'cil** (a deliberative body). See also **CONSOLE**, **COUNCIL**.
- con'su-lar** (pertaining to a consul), distinguish from **coun'cil-or** (member of a council), **coun'sel-or** (an adviser).
- con-ta'gious,** not *contageous*.
- con-temn'.** The final *n* is silent. See *N*.
- con-tem'po-ra'ne-ous,** not *contemporanious*.
- con-tempt'i-ble,** not *contemptable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**con-tract'i-ble**, not *contractable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**con-tract'or**, not *contracter*.

**con"tre-temps'**. A French word the last syllable of which is pronounced as if spelt *tan* ("a" as in "arm").

**con-trib'u-to-ry**, **con-trib'u-ta-ry**. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See -ARY, ORY, pp. 6, 11.

**con-trol'** doubles the *l* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-ability*, *-able*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*; **con-trol"la-bil'ity**, **con-trol'la-ble**, **con-trolled'**, **con-trol'ler**, **con-trol'ling**.

**con"tro-vert-i-ble**, not *controvertible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**con"va-lesce'** drops the *e* when before a suffix beginning with a vowel as, *-ed*, *-ence*, *-ent*, *-ing*: **con"va-lesced'**, **con"va-les'cence**, **con"va-les'cent**, **con"va-les'-cing**. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**con"ver-sa"zi-o'ne**. An Italian word used to denote a meeting for conversation on some topic, as art or literature.

**con-ver'sion**, not *conversion*.

**con-vert'i-ble**, not *convertible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5, 9.

**con-vey'ance**, not *conveyence*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**con-vey'er**, **con-vey'or**. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred.

**con-vinc'i-ble**, not *convinceable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**coop** (an enclosure), distinguish from **coup** (a master-stroke).

**co-par'ce-na-ry**, not *coparcenery*. See next word.

**co-par'ce-ner**, not *coparsener*.

**cop'i-er**. A copyist.

**cop'ies** (reproductions in imitation of an original), distinguish from **cop'pice** (a thicket).

**cop'ing**, not *copeing*.

**cop'y** drops the *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **cop'ied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **cop'y-ing**.

**co-quet'** (to trifle in love), distinguish from **co-quette'** (firt).

**cord** (a string), distinguish from **chord** (a term in music).

**core** (middle), distinguish from **corps** (body of men).

**co're-spon'dent** (a joint respondent), distinguish from **cor're-spon'dent** (one who carries on a correspondence by mail). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**cor'ol-la-ry**, not *corollery*.

**cor'po-ral** (an officer), distinguish from **cor-po're-al** (having a body).

**corps** (body of men), distinguish from **core** (middle).

**cor'pus-cle**. The trigraph, *cle*, of the final syllable, is pronounced as *l*.

**cor're-late'**, not *corelate*.

**cor're-spon'dence** (communication by letters), not *correspondance*. Distinguish from **cor're-spon'dents** (one who communicates with another by letter, etc.). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**cor're-spon'dent** (one who carries on a correspondence by mail), distinguish from **co're-spon-dent** (a joint respondent). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**cor'ri-gi-ble**, not *corrigable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**cor-rupt'i-ble**, not *corruptable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**corse** (a dead body), distinguish from **coarse** (rough), and **course** (a career, a race). Compare **CORE**; **CORPS**.

**co'sy**. See under *cozy*.

**cote** (sheepfold), distinguish from **coat** (an outer garment).

**co'te-rie'**. A set of persons who associate; a clique.

**cough**. Pronounced as if spelt *cof*. Compare **GH**.

**cough'er** (one who coughs), distinguish from **cof'fer** (a strong box).

**co-til'lon**, not *cotillon*.

**could**. Note that the *l* is silent and the word is pronounced as if spelt *kud*.

**cou-lomb'**. The final *b* is silent. See **B**.

**coul'ter**. See **CORTER**.

**coun'cil** (deliberative body), distinguish from **coun'sel** (advice).

**coun'cil-or** (member of a council), distinguish from **coun'sel-or** (adviser), **con'su-lar** (pertaining to a consul).

**count'er** (a shop table), distinguish from **comp'ter** (a prison).

**coun'ter-feit**, not *counterfeit* or *counterfit*.

**coun'try** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **coun'tries**.

**coun'ty** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural, **coun'ties**.

**coup** (a master stroke), distinguish from **coop** (a hutch-like enclosure).

**coup de grâce**. A French phrase in which the *p* is silent.

**coupd'é'tat'**. A French phrase in which the *p* and final *t* are silent.

**coup'le** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **coupled**, **coup'ling**, but not before *-able* in forming the adjective **coup'le-a-ble**.

**cou'pon**, not *cupon*.

**cour'age** retains the final vowel before a suffix beginning with a vowel: **cou-ra'geous**.

**cou'ri-er** (a messenger), distinguish from **cur'ri-er** (a leather-dresser).

**course**. See **CORSE**.

**cours'er** (a swift horse), distinguish from **coars'er** (comparative of **COARSE**).

**courte'sy** (a bow in politeness), distinguish from **cour'-te-sy** (politeness). The spelling **curt'sy** for the first was formerly common and should be restored to facilitate the distinction.

**cous'in** (a relation), not *cuzin* as pronounced. Distinguish from **coz'en** (to cheat).

**cov'er**, not *cuv'er* as pronounced.

**cov'e-nant**, not *covenant* (as pronounced), or *covenant*.

**cov'er**, **cov'ert**, **cov'er-ture**, **cov'et**, **cov'ey**. In all these words the first syllable is spelt *cov*, but pronounced as if spelt *cuv*.

**cow'ry** (a shell used as money in Africa), distinguish from **kau'ri** (a tree of New Zealand that yields **kau'ri-gum**).

**cox'comb**<sup>n</sup> (a conceited fop), distinguish from **cocks'-comb** (a plant with red flowers that resemble the comb of a cock).

**coz'en** (to cheat), distinguish from **cous'in** (a relation).

**co'zy**. This spelling prevails in the United States; **co'sy** and **co'sey** are common in Great Britain. These words change the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **co'zi-er**, **co'zi-est**.

**craw** (the crop of a bird), distinguish from **crow** (a bird).

**cray'on**. Note the *y* in this word.

**creak** (to make a harsh noise), distinguish from **creek** (a small bay), **crick** (a pain in the neck).

**crease** (a wrinkle), distinguish from **cress** (a plant).

**crease** (*v.*), drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **creased**, **creas'ing**.

**cre-a'tor**, not *creator*.

**crèche**. Pronounced as if written *craysh*.

**cred'i-ble**, not *credable*.

**creek**. Distinguish from **CREAK**.

**cre'o-sote**, not *creasote*.

**crews** (ships' companies), distinguish from **cruise** (to sail about) and from **cruse** (a pitcher).

**crew'el** (a ball of yarn), distinguish from **cru'el** (savage; inhuman).

**crick**. Distinguish from **CREAK**.

**cri'sis** (*sing.*), distinguish from **cri'ses** (*plur.*).

**crit'i-cize**, **crit'i-cise**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails in the United States and the second in Great Britain.

**crit'i-cism**, not *criticism*.

**cro-chet** (fancy work). Pronounced as if spelt *croshay*. Distinguish from **crotch'et** (a note in music; also, an eccentricity). The participles of the verb are spelt **cro-cheted'** (pronounced *croshayed*), **cro-chet'ing** (pronounced *croshaying*).

**cro-quet'** (a lawn-game), distinguish from **cro-quette'** (a cake of minced food). The verb **croquet** does not double the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in **cro-quet'ed**, **cro-quet'ing**.

**crow** (a bird), distinguish from **craw** (the crop of a bird).

**cru'ci-fix'ion**, not *crucifixion*.

**cru'el** (pitiless; inhuman), distinguish from **crew'el** (a ball of yarn).

**cruise** (to sail about), distinguish from **crews** (ships' companies).

**cruis'ing**, not *cruiseing*.

**crys'tal** doubles the final *l* before suffixes beginning with a vowel; as, **crys'tal-line**, **crys'tal-liz'a-ble**, **crys'tal-li-za'tion**, **crys'tal-log'ra-phy**, **crys'tal-loid**.

**cten'oid** (comb-like). In the pronunciation of this word the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

**Ctes'i-phon** (ruined city on the Tigris). In the pronunciation of this name the *C* is silent.

**cudg'el**, not *cudgil*. The final *l* is doubled before a suffix beginning with a vowel: as, **cudg'elled**, **cudg'el-ling**.

**cue** (1. A hint. 2. A long, straight rod used in billiards. 3. A tail or braid, as of hair. 4. A long line of persons), distinguish from **Kew** (a town on the Thames, England).

**cul'-de-sac'**, not *cul-de-sack*.

**cul'ler** (a selector), distinguish from **col'or** (a hue).

**cul'ture** (refinement of the mind, morals, taste, etc.), distinguish from **kul'tur** (submerging of sense for the common good).

**cum'in** (a plant), distinguish from **com'ing** (approaching).

**cup'board**. Note the *p* in this word which is silent in pronunciation. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.

**cur'a-ble**, not *cureable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**cu"ra-çao'** (a liqueur). Pronounced as if spelt *kuraso*; distinguish from **cu-ras'sow** (a turkey-like bird).

**cu'ri-o**. To form the plural add *s*: **cu'ri-os**, not *curioes*.

**cur'rant** (a small fruit), distinguish from **cur'rent** (an onward movement).

**cur-ric'u-lum**. Note the two *r*'s in this word.

**cur'ri-er** (a leather dresser), distinguish from **cou'ri-er** (a messenger).

**cy"clo-pe'an**, not *cyclopæan*.

**cy"clo-pe'di-a**, **cy"clo-pæ'di-a**. Both forms are used but the first is preferred.

**cyg'net** (a young swan), distinguish from **sig'net** (a seal).

**cym'bal** (a musical instrument), distinguish from **sym'bol** (a sign).

**cyn'i-cism** (something peculiar to a skeptic), distinguish from **Sin'i-cism** (something peculiar to the Chinese).

**cyst** (a sac of morbid matter), distinguish from **cist** (a box; chest).

## D

**d**. In certain combinations this letter is silent, as in *soldier* (soljer), and before *j* in *adjective*, *adjourn*, *adjudge*, etc. It is silent also in the first syllable of *granddaughter*, *handkerchief*, *handsome*, *Wednesday*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

**dachs'hund**, not *dacshund*.

**dah-lia**, not *dalia* or *dhalia*. The Swedish botanist whose name was given to the flower is *Dahl*.

**dai'ry** (a place where milk is kept), distinguish from **di'a-ry** (a record of daily events).

**dam** (a barrier across a stream to check its flow; also, a female parent of an animal), distinguish from **damn** (to condemn).

**dam** (*v.*) doubles the *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **dammed**, **dam'ming**.

**Dane** (a native of Denmark), distinguish from **deign** (to vouchsafe).

**da'tum** (*sing.*). The plural of this word is formed by changing *-um* to *-a*: **da'ta** (*plur.*), not *datas* or *datums*.



**daugh'ter.** Note the spelling and see GH.

**day** (a period of time), distinguish from **dey** (a Moorish governor).

**daze** (to dazzle), distinguish from **days** (plural of day). The verb **daze** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participle **dazed**, **daz'ing**.

**dear** (costly; loved), distinguish from **deer** (a wild animal).

**dearth**, **death**. Note that in these words the *a* is silent, and that they are pronounced as if written *derth*, *deth*. The Middle English forms were *derthe* and *deth*.

**de-bate'** drops the final *e* before *-able*, *-ed*, *-ing* to form the adjective **de-bat'a-ble**, and the participles **de-bat'-ed**, **de-bat'ing**.

**de-bil'i-ty**, not *debility*.

**deb'o-nair'**, **deb'o-naire'**, **deb'on-naire'**. All are in use but the first is preferred.

**dé'bris'** or **deb'ris'**. Note that the *s* is silent in this word.

**debt**, **debt'or**. Note that the *b* is silent in these words which are derived from the Latin *debitus*, pp. of *debeo*, owe. The word *debt*, traced back to the Latin, came into English from the French *dette* and therefore the *b* should not be retained but it is.

**dé'but'**. Note the final *t* in this word which is silent in the root-word, and in **dé'bu'tant** but not in its derivative **dé'bu'tante**.

**de-cease'** (death), distinguish from **dis-ease'** (illness; sickness), and **dis-seize'** (to dispossess).

**de-ce'dent**, not *desedent*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**de-ceit'**, not *deciet*. See EI, p. 7.

**de-ceive'**, not *decieve*. The root word drops the final *e* before *-able*, *-ableness*, *-ably*; **de-ceiv'a-ble**, **de-ceiv'-a-ble-ness**, etc. See EI, p. 7.

**de-cen'ni-al**, not *decenial*.

**de'cent** (proper; modest), distinguish from **de-scent'** (a going down, declivity), and **dis-sent'** (to disagree). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**deck'le**, not *deckel*.

**de-claim'**, retains the *i* in **de-claim'er** but drops it in **dec'la-ma'tion**, **de-clam'a-to-ry**.

**de-clare'** drops the final *e* in forming the adjectives **de-clar'a-tive**, **de-clar'a-to-ry**.

**de-cline'** drops the final *e* in forming the adjectives **de-clin'a-ble**, **dec'li-nate**, **de-cli'na-to-ry**, and the nouns **dec'li-na'tion** and **de-cli'na-ture**.

**de-coct'i-ble**, not *decoctable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**dé'col'le-té'** (cut low in the neck, as a gown), distinguish from **dé'col'le-tée'** (having the neck and shoulders bare: said of a woman in a *décolleté* gown).

**dec'o-ra'tor**, not *decorater*.

**de-crease'**, not *decrease*.

**de-cry'**. The *y* changes to *i* before *-al*, *-ed*, *-er*; **de-cri'al**, **de-cried'**, **de-cri'er**.

**de-duc'i-ble**, not *deducible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**deer** (an animal), does not change in form to make the plural **deer** (animals). See RULES, p. 13.

**deer** (a wild animal of the antlered variety), distinguish from **dear** (beloved; costly).

**de-face'** retains the final *e* in its derivatives **de-face'a-ble**, **de-face'ment**, but drops it before *-ing* in **de-fac'ing**.

**def'a-ma'tion** (the act of slandering), distinguish from **def'or-ma'tion** (the act of disfiguring; defacement).

**de-fea'sance**, not *defeasance*.

**de-fea'si-ble**, not *defeasable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**de-fend'ant**, not *defendent*. See SUFFIXES, p. 6.

**de-fense'**, **de-fence'**. Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**de-fen'si-ble**, not *defencible* or *defensable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**de-fer'** (delay), distinguish from **dif'fer** (disagree).

**de-fer'**. The final consonant is not doubled before *-ence* and *-ent*, but it is doubled before *-ed* and *-ing*; **def'er-ence**, **def'er-ent**, but **de-ferred'**, **de-fer'ring**.

**de-fer'a-ble**, not *deferible*. Compare REFERABLE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**def'er-ence** (respect), distinguish from **dif'fer-ence** (variation). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**de-fi'ance**, not *defience*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**def'i-cit**, not *defisit*.

**def'la-grate**, not *defligreat*.

**de-flect'** (to cause to swerve), distinguish from **de-flex'** (to bend abruptly downward).

**de-flec'tion** (deviation), distinguish from **de-flex'ure** (the condition of being bent).

**de-form'i-ty** (misshapedness), distinguish from **dif-for'mi-ty** (diversity of form).

**de-fy'** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in **de-fied'**, but retains the *y* in the present participle **de-fy'ing**.

**deign** (to vouchsafe), distinguish from **Dane** (a native of Denmark).

**de-laine'**, not *delane*.

**del'e-ble**, **del'i-ble**. Both are in use; not *delable*.

**del'e-gate**, not *delagate* or *deligate*.

**de-light'**. In this word and its derivatives, **de-light'ful**, **de-light'ful-ly**, etc., the *gh* is silent. See **GH**.

**de-lu'sion** (a deception), distinguish from **di-lu'tion** (to dilute).

**de"mar-ca'tion**, **de"mar-ka'tion**. Both are in use,

**de-mean'or**, **de-mean'our**. Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

**de-mesne'**. Note that the *s* in this word is silent, and the word is pronounced as written in Early Anglo-French, *demene*.

**de-mor'al-ize**, not *demoralise*.

**de-mur** *doubles* the *r* in the participles **de-murred'**, **de-mur'ring** and in the derivatives **de-mur'rage**, **de-mur'ral**, **de-mur'rer**.

**de-mur'** (to hesitate), distinguish from **de-mure'** (modest).

**de-ni'al**, not *denyal*.

**de-noue'ment**. Note the spelling of the second syllable which is pronounced as if spelt *nu* ("u" as in "rule").

**dense** (thick; close), distinguish from **dents** (indentations).

**den'tal** (pertaining to the teeth), distinguish from **den'til** (a square projecting block in a cornice).

**de-pen'den-cy**, not *dependancy*.

**de-po'nent**, not *deponant*. Compare **DEFENDANT**. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 8.

**de-pos'i-ta-ry'** (receiver), distinguish from **de-pos'i-to-ry** (place of deposit). The plurals of these words are formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*.

**de-pos'i-tor**, not *depositers*.

**de'pot**. Pronounced as if written *de'po*. Note that the *t* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3.

**dep're-cate** (to disapprove), distinguish from **de-pre'ci-ate** (to lessen in value).

**dep'u-tize**, not *deputise*.

**de-raign'**, not *dereign*. Note that the *g* is silent. See **G**.

**de-scend'ant** (offspring), distinguish from **de-scend'ent** (proceeding downward). See **SUFFIXES**, p. 6.

- de-scend'i-ble, de-scend'a-ble.** Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- de-scen'sion** (descent), distinguish from **dis-sen'sion** (strife).
- de-scent'** (going down), distinguish from **dis-sent'** (to disagree), and **de'cent** (becoming).
- de-scrip'tive**, not *descriptive*.
- des'ert** (a waste place), distinguish from **des-sert'** (a course of sweets after a meal).
- dés"ha"bil"lé'.** A French word, pronounced as if spelt *dezabilyey*.
- de-sir'a-ble**, not *desireable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- des-patch'.** Misspelling of DISPATCH, which see.
- des'per-ate.** Note the second syllable and see SEPARATE.
- de-spis'a-ble**, not *despiseable*.
- de-spise'**, not *despize*.
- de-spon'den-cy**, not *despondancy*.
- des-sert'** (a course of sweets after a meal), distinguish from **des'ert** (a desert).
- de-struc'ti-ble**, not *destructable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- des'ue-tude** (disuse). Note the second syllable. The word is pronounced as if spelt *deswetude*.
- de-tail'**, not *detale*.
- de-ter'** doubles the *r* when before *-ed*, *-ence*, and *-ent*; **de-terred'**, **de-ter'ence**, **de-ter'rent**.
- det'i-nue**, not *detinew*.
- de-trac'ter, de-trac'tor.** Both forms are in use.
- de-vice'** (a contrivance), distinguish from **de-vise'** (con-  
trive; transmit by will).
- de-vis'er** (one who contrives), distinguish from **di-vis'or** (a number).
- dew** (moisture), distinguish from **due** (owing; fit).
- dex'ter-ous**, not *dextrous*.
- dex-trorse'** (rising toward the right), distinguish from **dex'trose** (a sugar found in plants and in honey).
- dey** (a Moorish governor), distinguish from **day** (a period of time).
- di-am'e-ter**, not *diameter*.
- di'a-phragm.** Note that the *g* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.
- di"ar-rhe'a, di"ar-rhoe'a.** Both form are in use but the first prevails.
- di'a-ry** (a daily record of events), distinguish from **dai'ry** (a place where milk is kept).

**dice** (small ivory cubes), distinguish from **dies** (metal devices for stamping).

**dic'ta**. The Latin plural of **dic'tum**. Frequently used erroneously as a singular. Correctly: "*This dictum*"; "*these dicta*."

**dic'tion-a-ry**, not *dictionary*.

**die** (a metal device for stamping), distinguish from **dye** (a color).

**die** (a bone or ivory cube). The plural is formed irregularly, the *e* being dropped and *ce* added, **dice**.

**di-er'e-sis**, **di-æ'r'e-sis**. Both forms are in use, but the former prevails as the modern tendency is to discard diphthongs.

**dies** (expires), distinguish from **dice** (small ivory cubes).

**differ** (to disagree), distinguish from **de-fer'** (delay).

**differ-ence** (variation), distinguish from **def'er-ence** (respect). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**dif-form'i-ty** (lack of uniformity), distinguish from **de-form'i-ty** (disfigurement).

**di-gest'i-ble**, not *digestable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**dike**, **dyke**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails.

**dil'a-to-ry**, not *dilitary*.

**di-lem'ma**, not *dilema*.

**di-lu'tion** (the act of diluting), distinguish from **de-lu'-sion** (a deception).

**di-men'sion**, not *demension* or *dimention*.

**dim'i-ty**, not *dimmity*; the word is derived from the Greek *di*-, twice, and *mitos*, thread of the warp.

**din** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **dinned**, **din'ning**.

**din'er**, sometimes divided **din'er** (one who dines), distinguish from **din'ner** (a meal).

**din'gey** (a small boat), distinguish from **din'gy** (dull; tarnished).

**diph-the'ri-a**, **diph'thong**, not *diphtheria* or *diphthong*.

**dire** (distressful), distinguish from **dy'er** (one who colors).

**dir'i-gi-ble**, not *dirigeable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**dis-a'ble** (to cripple), distinguish from **dis'ha-bille'** (undress). See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**dis'ap-pear**, not *dissappear*.

**disc**. See under **DISK**.

**dis-ern'i-ble**, not *discernable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**dis-close'**, not *discloze*.

**dis-com'fit** (to defeat; rout), distinguish from **dis-com'fort** (to make uneasy).

**dis-creet'** (prudent), distinguish from **dis-crete'** (distinct).

**dis-crep'an-cy**, not *discrepancy*.

**dis'cus** (a quoit), distinguish from **dis'cous** (in the form of a disc).

**dis-ease'** (an illness), distinguish from **de-cease** (death), and **dis-seize'** (to dispossess).

**dis-fran'chise**, not *disfranchise*.

**dis-guise'**. Note the *u* in the second syllable. Not *desguise* or *disgise*.

**dis"ha-bille** (undress), distinguish from **dis-a'ble** (to cripple).

**di-shev'el**. The participles of this word are formed by adding *-ed* and *-ing*, or *-led* and *-ling* to the root-word.

**disk, disc**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**dis-patch'**. The original spelling which dates from about 1500. The erroneous form *despatch* arose from a misreading of the text of Johnson's Dictionary in which the word was entered under *des-* by mistake, for Johnson himself always wrote it *dispatch*.

**dis-patch'er**, not *despatcher*.

**dis-pen'sa-ble**, not *dispensable*.

**dis-seize'** (to dispossess), distinguish from **de-cease'** (death) and **dis-ease'** (illness; disorder).

**dis-sen'sion** (strife), distinguish from **de-scen'sion** (descent).

**dis-sent'** (to disagree), distinguish from **de'cent** (becoming), and **de-scent'** (going down).

**dis'si-pat"ed**, not *disipated*.

**dis-ten'si-ble**, not *distensable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**dis'tich**, not *distik* as pronounced.

**dis-tor'tion**, not *distorsion*.

**dived**, not *dove* which is colloquial.

**di'vers** (more than one), distinguish from **di'verse** (distinct).

**di-vis'i-ble**, not *divisable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**di-vis'or** (that by which a number is divided), distinguish from **de-vis'er** (one who invents).

**di-vul'sion**, not *divultion*.

**do** (a note in music), distinguish from **doe** (a female deer), and **dough** (a soft paste of flour or meal).

- doc'i-ble** (capable of being taught), distinguish from **dos'a-ble** (that can be administered by the dose). See SUFFIXES, pp. 5, 9.
- doc'ile** (tractable), distinguish from **dos'sal** (a silk hanging), and **dos'sil** (a roll of lint).
- doc'tri-naire'**, not *doctrinare*.
- does**. See DOZE.
- dol'man** (a cape like garment), distinguish from **dol'men** (a table stone or something formed with several of them).
- done** (finished), distinguish from **dun** (a color; to press for payment).
- do'nor**, not *doner*.
- door** (the hinged or sliding cover that closes the entrance of a building), not *dor* or *dore*, which was the original spelling (A. D. 1100) displaced by *dure* (A. D. 1250), but *dore* prevailed until 1684 when it was supplanted by *door*. The current pronunciation is merely the application of the original pronunciation to the new spelling. Distinguish from **dor** (a large scavenger beetle).
- dor'mant**, not *dorment*.
- dose**. See DOZE.
- dos'sal, dos'sil**. See DOCILE.
- dost** (2d person sing., pres. ind. of *do*). Distinguish from **dust** (to wipe off pulverized earth).
- do'tage** (feebleness of mind), not *dot'tage*.
- doub'ling** (folding), distinguish from **Dub'lin** (a city in Ireland).
- doubt**. A word artificially spelt because Latin influence implied a derivation from L. *dubitare*, to waver or hesitate; instead of Old French *douter*, Middle English, *doute*. The *b* is silent in root-word and derivatives.
- dough**. See under *do*.
- doze** (to drowse), distinguish from **does** (plural of *dox*, or 3d person sing. of *do*), and **dose** (a prescribed quantity).
- draft** (an order to pay money, also a current of air), not *draught*. Distinguish from **drought** (dearth; thirst).
- dram** (a small weight), distinguish from **drach'ma** (an ancient coin).
- drawn** (attracted; pulled; also, sketched), distinguish from **drone** (an idler; also, a humming sound), **drown** (death by immersion).

**dread'naught** (a heavy cloth; also, fearless), distinguish from **dread'nought** (a type of modern battleship).

**drom'e-da-ry**, not *dromadery*.

**drone**. See under **DRAWN**.

**drought, drouth**. Both forms are in use, but the first, in which the *gh* is silent, is preferred. See **GH**.

**drought**. See under **DRAFT**.

**drown**. See under **DRAWN**.

**drowse**, not *drowze*.

**drub** *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **drubbed**, **drub'bing**, and the derivatives **drub'ber** and **drub'ble**.

**drug** *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **drugged**, **drug'ging**, and in the derivatives **drug'ger**, **drug'-gist**, **drug'gy**.

**drum** adds *m* to *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **drummed**, **drum'ming**, and to *-er* and *y* in forming the noun **drum'mer**, and adjective **drum'my**.

**dry**. The final *y* is changed to *i* before *-ed* (**dried**), *-er* (**dri'er**), *-est* (**dri'est**), but the adverb is spelt **dri'ly** or **dry'ly**.

**du'al** (composed of two), distinguish from **duel** (an encounter between two parties).

**du'al-ist** (a believer in two natures), distinguish from **du'el-ist** (one of two fighters).

**dub** (to smooth or dress with grease; also, to confer a title on) *doubles* the *b* in the participles **dubbed**, **dub'bing**.

**du'bi-ous**, not *dubeous*.

**Dub'lin** (the capital city of Ireland), distinguish from **doub'ling** (folding, multiplying).

**due** (owing; fit), distinguish from **dew** (moisture).

**due** *drops* the *e* in forming the adverb **du'ly**.

**du'el-ist**. See under **DUALIST**.

**dul'ness, dull'ness**. Both forms are used, but the latter is more common.

**Du'ma** (a Russian legislative body), distinguish from **Du'mas** (a French novelist or his son). The *s* in the latter word is silent.

**dumb**. The *b* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2.

**dum'found, dumb'found'**. The modern tendency is to omit the *b*, which is not heard in pronunciation.

**dum'my**. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed*, and the plural of the noun is formed by changing *y* to *i* and adding *es*: **dum'mied, dum'mies**.



- dun** (to press for payment), distinguish from **done** (finished).
- dun** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **dunned** and **dun'ning**.
- dunce** *drops* the *e* before *-ish* to form the adjective **dun'-cish**. The root word is derived from *Duns* Scotus, a 14th century opponent of learning.
- dun'geon** (a dark underground cell). Note the last syllable which is pronounced as if spelt *jun*. Distinguish from **don'jon** (the chief tower of a medieval castle).
- dupe** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* to form the participles **duped**, **dup'ing**, but **dup'a-bil'i-ty** is spelt also **dupe'a-bil'i-ty** and **dup'a-ble**, also **dupe'a-ble**.
- dust** (pulverized earth), distinguish from **dost** (DO, *v.*), and **durst** (DARE, *v.*).
- du'te-ous**, not *dutious*.
- du'ty**. The *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added; as, **du'ti-a-ble**, **du'ti-ful**.
- dwel**. The past participle may be formed by adding *-ed*, or substituting *t* for the final *l*—**dwelled** or **dwelt**.
- dye'** (a color), distinguish from **die** (a device for stamping).
- dye** *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel; as, **dye'a-ble**, **dye'ing**.
- dy'er** (one who colors), distinguish from **dire** (dreadful).
- dy'ing** (expiring), distinguish from **dye'ing** (coloring).
- dy'nas-ty**. The final *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **dy'nas-ties**.
- dys'en-ter-y**, not *dysentry*.

## E

The English sounds of the letter *e* are as in "get," "prey," "sergeant," "pear," "earn," "fern," "meet," "valley," and "over." Silent "e's", as in *gladden*, *give*, are four percent. of all the letters on a common printed page. Most of them were formerly pronounced, but in later English silent "e" is used as an orthographic expedient to mark the vowel before it as long (*fat*, *fate*; *met*, *mete*; *pin*, *pine*), or to mark *c*, *g*, *s*, as having the sound of *s*, *j*, *z*; hence, *stage*, *nose*. In a page of English "e" is much the most frequent type. English printers use *é*, *è*, *ê*, in French words, even when partially Anglicized, and *ê*, *ë*, in words transliterated from strange alphabets. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

Among innumerable speakers . . . the sound of the letter *e* is converted . . . into a *u* which is itself unaccompanied with any dignity of intention, which makes for mere ignoble thickness and turbidity. For choice, perhaps, "vurry"; "Amurrica," "Philadelphica," "tullegram," "twuddy" (what becomes of "twenty" here is an ineptitude truly beyond any alliteration), and the like, descend deepest into the abyss. It is enough to say of those things that they substitute limp, slack, passive tone, for clear, clean, active, tidy tone, and that they are typical . . . of an immense body of limpness and slackness and cheapness.—HENRY JAMES, *The Question of Our Speech*, p. 31 [H. M. & Co. '05].

**ea.** A digraph used to indicate several sounds of spoken English as in the words *each*, *bread*, *break*, *bear*, *earth*, *heart*, *guinea*, *lead*, *near*, etc. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2.

**each.** Note the *a* in this word written in Old English *eche* and *ech*, forms no longer used.

**ea'ger.** Note the *a* in this word written in Old English *egre*, a form no longer used.

**ea'gle**, not *egle*.

**ear** (the organ of hearing), distinguish from *e'er* (contraction of *ever*).

**ear'ly**, not *erly*, but so pronounced.

**earn** (to gain by labor, service, or performance), distinguish from *urn* (a vase-like receptacle).

**ear'nest** (serious; grave), distinguish from *Er'nest* (a masculine personal name).

**earth.** Note that the *a* is silent and the word pronounced as if spelt *erth*. Its Middle English form was *erthe*.

**eas'y**, changes *y* to *i* before *-er*, *-est*, and *-ly*; as, *eas'i-er*, *eas'i-est*, *eas'i-ly*.

**eas'i-er**, **eas'i-ly**. See under *EASY*.

**eave** (the projecting ledge of a roof: used usually in the plural, *eaves*), distinguish from *eve* (the close of day, and *Eve* (a feminine personal name)).

**ebb**, not *eb*.

**eb'ul-li'tion**, not *ebulition*.

**ec-cen'tric**, not *excentric*.

**ech'o.** To form plural add *es*, *ech'oes*. Compare *CH*.

**é'clat'.** A word derived from the French in which the *t* is silent. Compare *T*.

**e-con'o-mi-za'tion**, not *economisation*.

**e-con'ö-mize**, not *econimize*. The participles of this verb are formed by dropping the final *e* and adding *-ed* and *-ing*: **e-con'ö-mized**, **e-con'ö-miz'ing**.

**ec'sta-sy**, not *ecstasy*.

- ed. A suffix used in English to form (1) the past tense of verbs; (2) the past participle of regular verbs, and (3) analogous adjectives. It is sometimes pronounced as if written *-st* as in *accursed*, *addressed*. Root-words ending in *e* drop the *e* before *-ed*; as, *love*, *lov-ed*, etc.
- edge** drops the final *e* before *-ing*, but retains it before *-able*, *-less*, *-ways* and *-wise*; *edge'a-ble*, *edge'less*, *edge'ways*, *edge'wise*.
- ed'i-ble**, not *edable* or *edible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- ee**. A digraph used to indicate the vowel sounds heard in *beech* and *coffee*; also, in Great Britain, *been* commonly mispronounced in the United States *bin*.
- e'er** (contraction of *ever*), distinguish from *ere* (sooner than).
- ef-fect'** (to bring about; also, the result or consequence brought about), distinguish from **af-fect'** (to influence).
- ef-fect'i-ble**, not *effectable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- ef'fer-vesce'**. Note that the *c* is not heard when the word is pronounced, and that the final *e* is dropped before *-ing*; **ef'fer-vesc'ing**.
- ef-fete'**, not *effeat* or *effect*.
- ef'fi-ca-cy**, not *efficasy*.
- ef-fi-cient**, not *efficient*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- ei**. In English this digraph is used to represent the sound of *e* as in "eve," as in *conceive*, *deceive*, *either*, *neither*, *receive*, etc., that of *e* in "they," as in *deign*, *feign*, *rein*, *veil*. See EI, p. 7.
- eigh**. A quadrigraph that is pronounced *ay* in English. It is used in various positions: initial in *eight*, *eighteen*; after *n* in *neighbor*, and final in *sleigh* and *weigh*.
- eight** (consisting of one more than seven), distinguish from **eighth** (one of eight equal parts; also, the next in order after the seventh).
- e-lec'tri-cute**, **e-lec'tro-cute**. Both forms have been used but the first prevails.
- e-lec-trol'y-sis**, not *electrolisis*.
- e-lec'tro-lyze**, not *electrolise*. The form **e-lec'tro-lyse** is common in Great Britain.
- el'e-e-mos'y-na-ry** (charitable). A word as frequently misspelt as it is mispronounced—NOT *elemosynery*.
- elf**. Drop the *f* and add *-ves* to form the plural: *elves*. See RULE 4, p. 14.
- e-lic'it** (to draw out), distinguish from **il-lic'it** (unlawful).

- el'i-gi-ble** (fit to be chosen), distinguish from **il-leg'i-ble** (that can not be read). See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- e-lim'i-nate**, not *elimanate*.
- el-lip'sis**, not *elipsis*.
- e-lude'** (to avoid), distinguish from **al-lude'** (to refer to). See ILLUDE.
- e-lud'i-ble**, not *eludable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- e-lu'sion** (the act of escaping), distinguish from **il-lu'sion** (deception; delusion).
- elves**. Plural of **ELF**.
- em-bar'rass**, **em-bar'rassed**, **em-bar'ras-sing**, **em-bar'rass-ment**. These words are all correctly spelt with double *r* and double *s* but are frequently misspelt, one *r* being omitted.
- em-bed'** doubles the *d* in the participles **em-bed'ded**, **em-bed'ding**.
- em-bod'y**. The *y* is changed to *i* and *-ed* is added to form the past participle: **em-bod'ied**, and the *y* is changed to *i* before *-ment* to form the noun **em-bod'i-ment**.
- em"bon"point'**. A French word of which the last syllable is pronounced as if it were written *pwan* ("a" as in "at").
- em-brace** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the past and present participles **em-braced'**, **em-brac'ing**.
- e-mend'** (to make changes in, as a result of criticism), distinguish from **a-mend'** (to alter by authority, as a law).
- e-merse'** (to cause to come to the surface, as of water), distinguish from **im-merse'** (to dip or plunge into a fluid, as water). The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **e-mersed'**, **e-mers'ing**.
- em'i-grant'** (one who moves out of a country to go to another), distinguish from **im'mi-grant** (one who comes into a country from another). Note that *em* means "out of", and *im* means "into."
- em'i-grate**. Distinguish from **im'mi-grate**. See **EMI-GRANT**.
- em'i-nent** (prominent), distinguish from **im'mi-nent** (impending; threatening). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- em'is-sa-ry** (one sent on a mission), distinguish from **em'is-so-ry** (sending out).
- e-mit'** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **e-mit'ted**, **e-mit'ting**.

**em-pale'**, **em-pale'ment** are preferred to **im-pale'**, **im-pale'ment**, but both forms are in use.

**em-pan'el**. Alternative form of **im-pan'el**, the preferred form.

**em"pen'nage'** (the tail parts of an air-plane), not *onpen-age*—a French word of recent introduction.

**emperiled**. Obsolete spelling of **IMPERILED**.

**em'pha-sis** changes *i* to *e* in the plural, **em'pha-ses**.

**em'pha-size**, not *emphasise*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **em'pha-sized**, **em'pha-siz"ing**.

**em-pir'i-cal** (experimentative), distinguish from **em-pyr'i-cal** (pertaining to burning or combustion).

**em"ploy-ee'**, **em"ploy-é'**. Both forms are in use but the first is to be preferred.

**em-pyr'e-al** (heavenly; refined), distinguish from **im-pe'ri-al** (pertaining to an emperor).

**en-am'el**. The participles are formed by adding *-ed* or *-led* for the past participle, and *-ing* or *-ling* for the present participle: **en-am'eled** or **en-am'elled**; **en-am'el-ing** or **en-am'el-ling**.

**en-close'**, **in-close'**. Both forms are in use. See **INCLOSE**.

**en-co'mi-um**, not *enconium*.

**en-cour'ag-ing**, not *encourageing*. See **COURAGE**.

**en-cum'brance**, not *encumberance*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5-6.

**en-deav'or**, not *endeavor*. The English spelling is **en-deav'our**.

**en-dorse'**. See **INDORSE**.

**en'e-my** changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **en'e-mies**.

**en'er-gize**, not *energise*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **en'er-gized**, **en'er-giz-ing**.

**en-feoff'**. Note the spelling of the last syllable which is pronounced as if the word were spelt *enfes*.

**en-force'** retains the final *e* before *-able* and *-ment*, in **en-force'a-ble**, **en-force'ment**; but drops it before *-ed* and *-ing*; **en-forced'**, **en-forc'ing**.

**en-fran'chise**, not *enfranchize*.

**en-gage'** retains the final *e* before *-able*, *-ant* and *-ment*, as in **en-gage'a-ble**, **en-gage'ant**, **en-gage'ment**, but drops it before *-ed* and *-ing*; as in **en-gaged'** and **en-gag'ing**.

**en'gine**, not *ingine*, an old spelling used by Burns etc.

- en-gulf'** preferred to **in-gulf'**, not *engulph* or *ingulph*.  
**en'nui'**, not *ennuy*.  
**e-nough'**, not *enuf*. See **-OUGH**.  
**en-roll'**, **en-rol'**. Both forms are in use.  
**en-rol'ment**, **en-roll'ment**. Both forms are in use.  
**en'sign**, not *ensin*, but frequently mispronounced as if so spelt. The word is derived from the Latin *in*, in, and *signum*, a mark or sign, and not from *sin*.  
**en'si-lage**, not as pronounced *ensiledge*.  
**en-sure'**. This and **in-sure'** are generally interchangeable except in reference to accident, fire, and life insurance where *insure* is now used to the total exclusion of *ensure*.  
**en-tail'**, not *entale* or *intail*.  
**en'ter** (to go in), distinguish from **in-ter'** (to bury).  
**en'ter-prise** is preferred to **en'ter-prize**, the word being derived from the Old French *entreprise*.  
**en-thrall'**, **en-thral**. Both forms have been used but the first prevails in the English-speaking world. The participles are commonly spelt **en-thrall'd'**, **en-thrall'ing**, but the act of enthralling is spelt **en-thral'ment**.  
**en-trench'**, **in-trench'**. Both forms are in use but the latter is commonly used in the military sense.  
**en-trust'** is more frequently used than **in-trust'**. but the latter, is preferred by most dictionaries.  
**en-vel'op** (to cover completely), distinguish from **en'-vel-ope** (a covering for a letter). The participles of the verb are formed by adding *-ed* and *-ing* to the root, but the final *l* of the root-word is not doubled.  
**en-wrap'** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **en-wrapped'**, **en-wrap'ping**.  
**e'on** is preferred to the classic form *æ'on* as the tendency is to discard diphthongs.  
**ep'au-let**, not *epaulette* or *epolet*.  
**ep'i-gram** (a pithy, pointed saying), distinguish from **ep'i-gramme'** (a lamb or veal cutlet cooked, cut, and served in a particular way).  
**ep'i-spas'tic** (a medicinal preparation to cause blistering), distinguish from **ep'i-stax'is** (nose-bleed).  
**e-pit'o-mize**, not *epitemize*.  
**ep'och**. The *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See **CH**.  
**e'qua-ble**, not *equible*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**e'qual.** The participles of the verb may be written **e'qualed** or **e'qualled**, **e'qual-ing** or **e'qual-ling**. Most of the derivatives are written with one *l*; as, **e-q'ual'i-ty** (*n.*), **e"qual-i'za-tion** (*n.*), **e'qual'ize** (*v.*), **e'qual-iz'er** (*n.*), **e'qual-ness** (*n.*). The adverb, however, is written **e'qual-ly**.

**e'qual-ize**, not *equalise*.

**e"qui-noc'tial**, not *equinoxial*, a spelling current a century ago.

**e'qui-nox**, not *æquinox*.

**e-quip'** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **e-quipped'**, **e-quipp'ing**, and the noun **e-quip'per**. **eq'ui-ty** changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural, **eq'ui-ties** and drops *y* and adds *able* to form the adjective **eq'ui-ta-ble**.

**e-rad'i-cate**, not *irradicate*.

**e-rase'** drops final vowel before *-ed* and *-ing* to form the participles **e-rased'**, **e-ras'ing**.

**ere'** (sooner than), distinguish from **e'er** (contraction of **EVER**).

**er'rand** (a short trip or journey), distinguish from **er'rant** (wandering).

**er'rant** (wandering), distinguish from **ar'rant** (notorious).

**er-ro'ne-ous**, not *erronious*.

**er'ror**, not *errour*.

**e-rup'tion** (a bursting out, as of lava, from a volcano), distinguish from **ir-rup'tion** (a bursting in).

**er'y-sip'e-las**, not *erisypelas* or *erysipilas*.

**es'ca-pade**, not *escapaid*.

**es-cape'** retains the final *e* before consonants; as in **es-cape'ful**, **es-cape'less**, **es-cape'ment**, but drops it before vowels, as in **es-cap'a-ble**, **es-caped'**, **es-cap'ing**.

**-esce.** A suffix used to form verbs, as in **ac"qui-esce'**, **co"a-lesce'** in which the *ce* is obscured in speech.

**-escent.** A combination, that occurs in words from the Latin; in which the *c* is obscured in speech, as, **ad'o-les'cent**, **con"va-les'cent**, **ef"fer-ves'cent**, etc. It has been used as a suffix to form adjectives from other words; as, **ir"i-des'cent**, **o"pal-es'cent**.

**es"cha-tol'o-gy**, not *eskatology*, as pronounced. Note that in this word and its derivatives *ch* has the sound of *k*. See **CH**.

**es'cri-toire'**, not as Thackeray and Dickens spelt it, *escrutoire*.

**-ese**. A suffix commonly pronounced as if written *-eze*, as in *Chi'nese*, used to form adjectives designating "belonging to, originating in," etc. Also, employed to characterize some quality, as of a writer; as, *John-son-ese*, *jour'nal-ese*. It should never be spelt *eze*.

**Es'ki-mo**, not *Esquimaux*. To form the plural add *s* to the root word: *Es'ki-mos*, not *Eskimoes*.

**e-soph'a-gus**, *œ-soph'a-gus*. Both forms are used but the first is preferred in the United States.

**es-say'** (an attempt), distinguish from **as-say'** (an examination).

**Es'ther**, pronounced as if spelt *Ester*—the *h* is silent.

**es-top'pel**, not *estopel*.

**et**. Misspelling of *ate*.

**e'ther**, not *æther* which is restricted to air or the sky, while the first is used for the anæsthetic.

**e-the're-al**, not *æthereal*.

**eu**. A combination of vowels, used as a prefix in English words derived from the Greek, whose sound in speech is that heard in *feud*. The *e* is occasionally silent as in *eu'lo-gy*, *eu'phem-ism*. When it occurs in words derived from the French, as in *feuilleton*, *chauffeur*, etc., it has the sound of "u" as in "burn."

**Eu'cha-rist**, not *Eucarist*, the early English form. See **CH**.

**eu'chre**, not *eucre*, *uker* (1846), or *yuker* (1847), all now obsolete. The participles are spelt *eu'chred*, *eu'chring*.

**eu"de-mon'ics** (means of comfort or happiness), not *eudæmonics*, current till 1839, or *eudaimonics*, current till 1866. The simplified form prevails to-day.

**eu'lo-gize**, not *eulogise*.

**eu'lo-gy**, not *eulogie*, its earlier form now obsolete. To form the plural change *y* to *i* and add *-es*: *eu'lo-gies*; the *y* changes to *i* also in the derivatives *eu'lo'gi-a*, *eu'lo'gi-ous*, *eu'lo-gist*, *eu'lo-gize*.

**eu-pho'ni-ous**, not *euphoneous*.

**Eu"ro-pe'an-i-za'tion**, not *Europeanisation*.

**Eu"ro-pe'an-ize**, not *Europeanise*.

**ev'a-nesce'**, not *evaness*. See **-ESCE**.

**ev'a-nes'cence**, not *evanescense*.

**ev'a-nes'cent**, not *evanesent*.

**e-van'gel-i-za'tion**, not *evangelisation*, the latter being a mid-Victorian form now in disuse.



e-van'ge-lize, not *evangelise*.

eve'ning, not *evning*.

e-vin'ci-ble (capable of being proved), not *evinceable*.  
Distinguish from in-vin'ci-ble (not to be overcome;  
unconquerable). See -IBLE, p. 9.

ewe (a female sheep), distinguish from yew (a tree), you  
(the personal pronoun of the second person plural,  
often construed as a singular with a verb in the plural).

ewer (a water-pitcher), distinguish from your (possessive  
of you).

ewes (female sheep), distinguish from Hughes (a sur-  
name), use (to employ).

ex-alt', not *exhalt*.

ex-as'per-ate, not *exasperate*.

ex-ceed', not *excede*.

ex-cel' doubles the *l* in the participles ex-celled', ex-cel'-  
ling and in the derivatives ex'cel-lence, ex'cel-  
len-cy, ex'cel-lent.

ex-cept' (to omit; leave out), not *exept*. Distinguish from  
ac-cept' (to take when offered), which see.

ex-cess (surplus; overplus), distinguish from ac'cess  
(approach; passage).

ex-cise', not *excize*.

ex-cise'man, not *excizeman*.

ex-cite', not *exite*. This word retains the final *e* before a  
suffix beginning with a consonant, as in ex-cite'ment,  
but drops it before a vowel, as ex-cit'a-ble, not  
*exciteable*.

ex-claim', not *exclame* or *exclaime*, forms now obsolete.

ex-cres'cence, not *excresece*. See -ENCE, p. 8.

ex-cus'a-ble, not *excuseable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

ex'e-cut'er (one who executes), distinguish from ex-ec'u-  
tor (a trustee). See SUFFIXES, p. 8-9.

ex'er-cise, not *exercize*. See EXORCISE.

ex-hale' drops the final *e* in forming the participles ex-  
haled', ex-hal'ing, and the adjective ex-hal'able.

ex-hib'i-tor, not *exhibiter*.

ex-ist'ence, not *existance*. See -ENCE, p. 8.

ex of-fi'ci-o. A Latin phrase pronounced as if written  
*ex ofishio*.

ex'or-cise (to cast out), distinguish from ex'er-cise  
(activity).

ex-pan'sible, not *expansable*.

ex-pe'di-ent, not *expediant*. See -ENT, p. 8.

**ex-pel'** doubles the *l* in forming the adjective **ex-pel'la-ble** and the participles **ex-pelled'**, **ex-pel'ing**.

**ex-pense'**, not *expence*.

**ex-pe'ri-ence**, not *experiance*. See -ENCE, p. 8.

**ex-pire'** drops the final *e* in forming the adjective **ex-pir'-a-to-ry**, the noun **ex'pi-ra'tion**, and the participles **ex-pired'**, **ex-pir'ing**.

**ex"pla-na'tion**, not *explanation*.

**ex-plic'it**, not *explisit*.

**ex-plore'** drops the final *e* in forming the nouns **ex"plo-ra'tion** and **ex-plor'er**, and the adjectives **ex-plor'a-tive**, **ex-plor'a-to-ry**, and the participles **ex-plored'**, **ex-plor'ing**.

**ex-po'nent**, not *exponant*. See -ENT, p. 8.

**ex-pose'** drops the final *e* in forming the participles **ex-posed'** and **ex-pos'ing**.

**ex"po-sé'**. Note that this French word has three syllables and that the final *e* is accented.

**ex-press'i-ble**, not *expressable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

**ex-pul-sion**, not *expulshon*.

**ex'qui-site**, not as commonly mispronounced, *ex-quiz'it*.

**ex-tem'po-rize**, not *extemperize*.

**ex-ten'si-ble**, not *extensable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

**ex-tent'**, not *extint*.

**ex-tol** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **ex-tolled'**, **ex-tol'ing**, and the noun **ex-tol'ler**.

**ex-tra'ne-ous**, not *extranious*.

**ex-tra'ne-ous-ly**, not *extraniously*.

**ex-traor'di-nary**, not, as commonly pronounced, *extror-dinary*.

**ex"u-da'tion**, not *exudeation*.

**eye'ing**, rather than **ey'ing** which is permissible.

**eyes** (the organs of vision), distinguish from **ayes** (plural of **aye** used in indicating an affirmative vote).

## F

f. This letter is used to indicate two sounds in English: the first, that heard in *fish*, *off*, etc.; the second, that heard in *of*, *thereof*, *whereof*, etc. Various other combinations are used to indicate the first sound as *ph* (*photograph*) and *gh* (*cough*, *trough*, *laugh*, etc.). In English usage the word "lieutenant" is pronounced as if spelled *leftenant*.

**fa-ba'ceous**, not *fabacious*.

fa'çade', not *fasade*. Note that the word is from the French, and the *c* takes a cedilla beneath it, *ç*.

face (the visage; countenance), distinguish from faze (to vex; worry; disturb).

fac'et, not *faset*. The participles are written fac'et-ed or fac'et-ted; fac'et-ing or fac'et-ting.

fac'et (a triangular cut of a diamond or other gem), distinguish from fas'set (obsolete form of FAUCET).

fa-ce'tious, not *faceteous*.

fa-cil'i-tate, not *facillitate*.

fa-cil'i-ty, not *facillity*.

fac-sim'i-le. The plural of this word is formed by adding *s*: fac-sim'i-les, not *facsimilies*.

fac'ul-ty changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural fac'ul-ties.

fade'a-ble, not *fadable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.

Fah'ren-heit. Note that there are two *h*'s in this German name.

fa-i-ence', not *fayence*.

fain (anxious; desirous), distinguish from fane (a sanctuary; a temple), and feign (to dissemble).

faint (fatigued; timid), distinguish from feint (pretended attack).

fair (clear; just), distinguish from fare (diet; passage-money; a passenger).

fair'y changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural fair'ies.

fak'er (a deceiver or swindler), distinguish from fa-kir' (Mohammedan ascetic).

fal'con. The *l* in this word is silent. See L.

fal'li-ble, not *fallable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

falls (cascade; also, tumbles), distinguish from false (untrue), and faults (imperfection; defects).

fa-mil'iar-ism, not *familiarism*.

fa-mil'iar-ize, not *familiarise*. This verb drops the *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles fa-mil'iar-ized, fa-mil'iar-iz'ing, and in fa-mil'iar-i-za-tion.

fane. See under FAIN.

fan-tas'tic, not *phantastic*, a form no longer generally current.

fan'ta-sy, not *phantasy* a 17th century spelling.

fare (diet; also, passage-money), distinguish from fair (clear; just).

fare'well, not *fairwell*.

fa'ro (a game of cards), distinguish from Pha'raoh (a king of Egypt).

far'ri-er (one who shoes horses), distinguish from fur'ri-er (one who deals in or dresses furs).

far'ther (more distant), distinguish from fa'ther (a male parent), and from fur'ther (signifying additional).

fas'ci-a, not *facia* or *fashia*.

fas'ci-nate, not *facinate*.

fate (destiny, fortune), distinguish from fête (a festival, feast).

fa'ther (a male parent), distinguish from far'ther (more distant).

fau'cet, not *fasset*, *fawcet*, *forset* or *fosset*.

faults (defects), distinguish from false (untrue), and falls (does fall).

fa'vor, fa'vour. Both forms are in use for the root-word and its derivatives. The first is preferred in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

faze (to worry; disturb; vex), distinguish from face (the visage), and from phase (the view that anything presents to the eye).

fears (past participle of fear), distinguish from fierce (savage).

fea'si-ble, not *feasable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

feat (a notable act), distinguish from feet (plural of foot).

feath'er, not *fether*, as it is pronounced.

feaze (to vex, annoy, worry), distinguish from feeze (to tighten by twisting).

Feb'ru-a-ry, not *February*.

feign (to dissemble), distinguish from fain (anxious; desirous) and fane (a sanctuary; a temple). See GN.

feint (pretend attack), distinguish from faint (fatigued).

feld'spar" is preferred to *felspar*.

fel'ler (one who cuts down), distinguish from fel'loe (a wheel rim) and fel'low (an associate).

fence, not *fense*.

fenc'i-ble, not *fensible*. See -IBLE, p. 9.

feoff'ment. Note the spelling of the first syllable of this word which is pronounced as if spelt *fef*.

fer-ment' (excitement, ebullition), distinguish from fo-ment' (to encourage).

fer'ri-age, not *ferryage*.

fer'tile. Pronounced as if spelt *fertil*.

fer'til-ize, not *fertilise*.

fer'til-iz'er, not *fertiliser*.

fe'tid, not *fetid*. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred to-day.

re'tish, not *fetich* or *fetisch* now obsolete.

fête (a festival; a deed), distinguish from fate (destiny; fortune).

fi'ber, fi'bre. Both forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

fic-ti'tious, not *fictionous*.

fief (land held under feudal tenure), distinguish from thief (a robber).

fierce (savage), distinguish from fears (does FEAR.)

fier'y, not *fiery* or *firy*.

fil'i-gree, not *filagree* or *filligree*, both obsolete forms to-day.

fil'lip (to snap with the fingers), distinguish from Phil'ip (a man's name).

fil'ter (a strainer), distinguish from phil'ter (a love charm).

fin'an-cier, not *financier*.

find (to discover), distinguish from fined (punished by fine).

fine'ness (the quality of being fine), distinguish from fi-nesse' (artifice), not *finess*.

fir (a type of tree), distinguish from fur (the coat covering the skin of an animal).

first (earliest; foremost), distinguish from thirst (a longing for a drink).

fish'er (one who catches fish), distinguish from fis'sure (a crack).

Fismes. A French town captured by the United States troops from the Germans in 1918. Note that it is pronounced as if written *feem*.

Fi-u'me. Note that each syllable is pronounced—not *fume*.

flag *doubles* the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *flagged* and *flag'ging*.

flage'o-let, not *flajolet*.

flare (a large bright light), distinguish from flay'er (one who flays).

fla'vor, fla'vour. Both forms are in use for this root-word and its derivatives; the first prevails in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.

- flea** (an insect), distinguish from **flee** (to run away).  
**flew** (past tense of **FLY**), distinguish from **flue** (a chimney).  
**flex'i-ble**, not *flexable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.  
**flex'or** (a contracting muscle), distinguish from **flex'ure** (a bending).  
**fi'er, fly'er**. Both forms are in use, the second being preferred in England.  
**flight**. Note that the *gh* is silent. See **GH**. Not *fleight*. Compare **HEIGHT**.  
**flocks** (groups of sheep or birds), distinguish from **phlox** (a flowering plant).  
**flot'sam**, not *flotsame* or *flotsome*.  
**flour** (ground wheat), distinguish from **flow'er** (a blossom).  
**flue** (a chimney), distinguish from **flew** (past tense of **FLY**).  
**flu'o-rid, flu'o-ride**. Both forms are in use.  
**fo'cus**. This word has an English plural formed by adding *es*, **fo'cus-es**, and a Latin one in which *i* is substituted for *us*, **fo'ci**.  
**fo'cus** (*v.*). The participles of this verb are written: **fo'cused** or **fo'cussed**, **fo'cus-ing** or **fo'cus-sing**.  
**fo'li-o**. The participles of this verb are formed by adding to the root-word *-ed* for the past participle **fo'li-oed**, and *-ing* for the present participle, **fo'li-o-ing**.  
**folk**. Note that the *l* is retained in the spelling of this word, but it is not heard when the word is spoken. See **L**.  
**fo-ment'** (to instigate, encourage), distinguish from **fer-ment'** (excitement, ebullition).  
**fond'ling** (caressing), distinguish from **found'ling** (a child found).  
**fo-net'ic**. See **PHONETIC**.  
**fool'har-dy**. The *y* changes to *i* before suffixes beginning with a consonant: **fool'har'di-ly**, **fool'har'di-ness**.  
**for** (a preposition), distinguish from **fore** (leading) and **four** (a number).  
**force** drops the *e* before *-ible* in forming the adjective **for-ci-ble**, not *forceable*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 8.  
**fore-go', for-go'**. Both forms are used but the first is preferred in the United States for both meanings (1) to precede; (2) to go without. In Great Britain they are differentiated.  
**fore-go'ing**, not *forgoing*.  
**for'eign**, not *forin* as it is pronounced. Note that the *g* is silent. See **G**.

fore-stall, not *forstall*.

for'feit, not *forefit*. See **FI**.

for-get' doubles the *t* in forming the present participle for-get'ting, and the past participle for-got'ten.

forg'ing, not *forgeing*.

forgoing. Misspelling of **FOREGOING**.

form'al-ly (in a formal way), distinguish from for'mer-ly (some time ago).

for'mu-la, not *formala*. The plural is spelled for'mu-las or for'mu-læ.

for-sake' drops the *e* before -ing in forming the participle for-sak'-ing. The past participle is for-sak'en.

for-sook', not *forsaked*.

fort (a defensive work), distinguish from forte (one's strong point; strong; loud).

forth (away, out, abroad), distinguish from fourth (next after third).

for'ty, not *fourty*.

fos'sil-ize, not *fossilise*.

foul (impure, clogged, unfair), distinguish from fowl (a bird).

foul doubles the *l* in forming the adverb foul'ly.

found'ling (a deserted child of unknown parentage), distinguish from fond'ling (caressing).

four (a number), distinguish from for (a preposition), and fore (leading).

fowl (a bird), distinguish from foul (impure; clogged; unfair).

foy'er', not *fwoyer* as frequently mispronounced.

frag'ile, not *fragil*.

frail, not *frale*.

fraise (a defense of pointed stakes as in a rampart; also, a pan cake), distinguish from frays (fights; quarrels), phrase (a group of two or more words).

Fran'ces (a woman's name), distinguish from Fran'cis (a man's name).

fran'chise, not *franchise*.

frat'er-nize, not *fraternise*.

fraught, not *frought*.

frays. See under **FRAISE**.

freak, not *freek*, *freik* or *friek*.

freeze (congeal, injure), distinguish from frieze (coarse woolen cloth; also, a projecting cornice).

fret doubles the *t* in the participles fret'ted, fret'ting.

**fri'ar** (a brother or monk in a religious order), distinguish from **fri'er** (one who or that which fries).

**fric'as-see'**, not *frickassee*.

**frieze** (a coarse woolen cloth; also, a decorated cornice), distinguish from **freeze** (congeal; injure with cold).

**frizette**, not *frizzette*.

**fron-tier'**, not *fronteer*.

**fron'tis-piece**, not *frontespiece*.

**frow'zy**, not *frouzy*.

**fruit**, not *froot* or *frute*. See **VI**.

**fuch'sia**. A word, derived from the name of Leonard *Fuchs*, a German botanist, and pronounced as if spelt *fewsha*.

**-ful** (suffix, denoting "abounding in"), distinguish from **full** (containing all that can be held). Note that the first is used always in solid compounds as *artful*, *beautiful*, *cupful*, *spoonful*, denoting, when used in the plural *cupfuls*, *spoonfuls*, one cup or one spoon filled as many times as directed. The second is used separately as in "cups *full*," "spoons *full*," denoting more than one cup or spoon *full*.

**ful-fil'**, **ful-fill'**. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. The Anglo-Saxon form was *ful+syllan*.

**ful-fil'** doubles the final *l* in the participles **ful-filled'**, **ful-fil'ling**, but the noun **ful-fil'ment** is written also **ful-fill'ment**.

**ful'ness**, **full'ness**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails and is etymologically correct. See **FULFIL**.

**ful'some**, not *fullsome*.

**fu'mi-gator**, not *fumigater*.

**fun'gous** (spongy; also, bearing fungi), distinguish from **fun'gus** (a plant).

**fun'gus**. The plural is **fun'gi** or **fun'gus-es**.

**fun'ny**, final *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added: **fun'ni-er**, **fun'ni-est**, **fun'ni-ly**.

**fur** (skin of an animal), distinguish from **fir** (a kind of tree).

**fur** doubles the *r* in forming the participles **furred**, **fur'-ring**.

**fur'ri-er** (a dealer in or dresser of furs), distinguish from **far'ri-er** (one who shoes horses).

**furs** (the coats covering the skins of beasts), distinguish from **furze** (a wild spiny shrub).



- fur'ther (additional; in addition), distinguish from far'-ther (as applied to distance).  
 fu'sel-age' (the framework of an air-plane), not *fustlage*.  
 fu'si-ble, not *fusable* or *fuseable*. See -IBLE, p. 9.  
 fu'sion, not *fuzion*.  
 fuss (a tumult; unnecessary bustle), distinguish from fuzz (fine particles of down).  
 fust (a moldy smell), distinguish from first (earliest; foremost).  
 fu'tile, not *futil* as pronounced.  
 fuzz (to fly out in particles), distinguish from fuss (to fret; worry).

## G

- g. In English *g* has two sounds: (1) *hard* (a) before *a*, *o*, *u*, and sometimes *e* and *i* [See (2) below] or a consonant, as in "garden," "get," "gelding," "gift," "gild," "good," "gun," "ghastly," "great," etc., (b) when medial, as in "dagger," "digger," "digging," "figure," etc., (c) when final, as in "bag," "beg," "big," "bog," "bug," "egg;" (2) *soft* before *e*, sometimes before *i* [See 1 (a) above], and *y*, as in "age," "gaol," "gem," "geology," "gin," "gist," "gymnasium," "gyroscope," etc. The letter *g* is sometimes silent as in *poignant*, *poignancy*, *sign*, *phlegm*, *gnostic*. See GH, -ING, and NG.
- Gael (a Scottish Highlander), distinguish from gale (a storm).  
 gag *doubles* the final *g* in forming the participles gagged and gag'ging, and the noun gag'ger.  
 gage (a pledge; a type of plum), distinguish from gauge (to measure). The latter is often spelt gage in the United States.  
 gal'e-ty, gay'e-ty. Both forms are in use but the first is more frequent.  
 gait (a manner of walking), distinguish from gate (an entrance).  
 Gal'i-lee (a region of the Holy Land), distinguish from Ga'li-le'i (an Italian astronomer, usually called Gal'i-le'o).  
 Gal'i-le'an, not *Galilean* or *Gallilean*.  
 gal'i-pot (a resin or pitch), distinguish from gal'li-pot (a small earthenware jar, as for jam or medicine).  
 gall (bile; bitterness), distinguish from Gaul (a native of ancient Gaul; also, a Frenchman).

**gal'le-on** (a merchant-ship), distinguish from **gal'lon** (a liquid measure).

**gal'ler-y** changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **gal'ler-ies**.

**gal'ley**. The plural is formed by adding *s*; **gal'leys**, not *gallies*. **Gal-lip'o-li**, not *Galippoli*.

**gal-loon'**, takes two *l*'s even if derived from the Spanish *galon*, that has only one.

**gal'va-nism**, not *galvanism*.

**gam'ble** (to play for money), distinguish from **gam'bol** (to cut capers or dance and skip playfully).

**gan'grene**, not *gangreen*.

**gangu** (a non-metallic mineral), distinguish from **gang** (a group or squad). Both words are pronounced alike.

**gant'let'** (a form of punishment in which the victim runs between rows of men who strike him), distinguish from **gaunt'let** (glove).

**gape**, not *gap*.

**gard**. See under **GUARD**.

**gar'goyle**, not *garcoil*.

**gar'ish**, not *gareish*.

**gar'nish-ee'**. The participles of this verb are written **gar'nish-ee'd'**, **gar'nish-ee'ing**. They may be divided also **gar'ni-sheed'**, **gar'ni-shee'ing**.

**gas'o-line** is preferred to *gasolene*.

**gas-tri'tis**, not *gastretis*.

**gate** (an entrance), distinguish from **gait** (a manner of walking).

**gauge** (a measuring implement), distinguish from **gage** (a pledge; also, a kind of plum). See **GAGE**.

**Gaul** (an ancient country of northwestern Europe; also, a Frenchman), distinguish from **gall** (imprudence; bile; bitterness).

**gauze** (a light open-woven fabric), distinguish from **gorse** (furze).

**gaz'et-teer'**, not *gazzetteer*, even if derived from the Italian *gazzetta*.

**geese**. Plural of **GOOSE**. See **PLURALS**, p. 13.

**gen'der**, not *jender*, as it is pronounced—the *g* being soft. See **G**.

**gen'er-al** is a word of three syllables: not *genral* as frequently mispronounced. See **G**.

**gen'er-al-is'si-mo** always takes two *s*'s.

**gen'er-a-li'za-ble**, not *generalisable*.

gen'er-al-i-za'tion, not *generalisation*.

gen'er-al-ize, not *generalise*.

gen'er-al-ly is a word of four syllables but is frequently curtailed to three by careless speakers: not *genrally*.  
See G.

gen'er-ous is a word of three syllables when correctly pronounced: not *genrous*. See G.

gen'ius (mental powers), distinguish from ge'nus (a kind).

gen-teel' (polite), distinguish from Gen'tile (one not a Jew) and gen'tle (mild; meek).

ge'nus (a kind), distinguish from gen'ius (mental powers).

ge-og'ra-phy. Note the first two syllables of this word which is very frequently mispronounced. See G.

Geor'gette' (a feminine personal name), distinguish from geor'gette' or geor'get' (a light dress-fabric).

ges'ture (a posture), distinguish from jes'ter (one who jokes).

ges'ture, not *jesture* as pronounced. The final *e* is dropped in forming the participles ges'tured, ges'tur-ing.

get. The past participles of this verb are irregular: got or got'ten, get'ting. *Gotten* still heard occasionally in the United States is seldom heard in southern England.

gey'ser, not *geysir* or *gyzer* as it is pronounced.

gh. Initial *gh* is *g* proper as in *go*, *ghastly*, *ghost*, etc.; but after a vowel is used often for the Anglo-Saxon continuous *h*, and is then silent as in *light*, *night*; when final, is sounded like *f*, as in *cough*, *laugh*, *tough*. As a guttural this digraph was formerly heard in England; it is still heard in some parts of Scotland and Ireland in such words as *bought*, *fought*, *lough*, etc. Medial and final *gh* are silent in the same syllable, as in *throughout*, *slough* (a quagmire). In *hough* the digraph *gh* has the sound of "k," *hock*.

ghast'ly, not *gastly*.

gher'kin, not *gurkin* as pronounced. See GH.

ghost, not *gost* as pronounced. See GH.

glaour, not *jaur* as pronounced.

gib. There are three verbs so spelt but the first, to supply with a gib-foresail or fasten it, and the second, to balk, as a horse, are pronounced as if written *jib*; the third is pronounced as spelt *gib*. All three double the *b* in forming the participles *gibbed*, *gib'bing*. See JB.

gibe, pronounced *jibe*, a spelling sometimes seen.

**Gi-bral'tar**, not *Gibraltar*.

**gild** (to cover thinly with gold), distinguish from **guild** (a corporation or society). See **GUILD**.

**gilt** (overlaid with gold), distinguish from **guilt** (crime, sin).

**gim'bal**, not *gimbel*.

**ging'ham**, not *gingam*. Note that the *h* is silent. See **H**.

**gin'ger**, not *jinger* as it is pronounced.

**gip'sy**, not *gypsy*. To form the plural change *y* to *i* and add *es*, **gip'sies**.

**gi-raffe'**, not *jiraf* as it is pronounced.

**gist**, not *jist* as it is pronounced.

**give** drops the *e* in forming the present participle, **giv'ing**.

**gla'cier** (a field of ice), distinguish from **gla'zier** (one who puts in glass).

**glair** (the white of an egg), distinguish from **glare** (a dazzling light).

**glam'our**, not *glamor*. This word, like *chancellor*, has successfully withstood efforts at simplification to which *armor*, *councilor*, *favor*, *harbor*, *labor*, etc. have yielded.

**Glas'gow**, not *Glasgow*.

**glis'ten**, not *glisen* as it is pronounced. Note that the *t* is silent. See **T**.

**glo'ry** changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural **glo'ries**, and to form the adjective change *y* to *i* and add *-ous*, **glo'ri-ous**.

**glos'sa-ry**, not *glossery*.

**glu'a-ble**, **glue'a-ble**. Both forms are in use. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**glue** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **glued**, **glu'ing**.

**glut** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **glut'ted**, **glut'ting**.

**glut'i-nous** (sticky), distinguish from **glut'to-nous** (greedy).

**glyc'er-in** or **glyc'er-ine**, not *glyserin*.

**gm**, **gn**. In English words *g*, retained before *m* or *n* in spelling, is silent in pronunciation; as in the words **gnarl**, **gnarled**, **gnash**, **gnat**, **gnaw**, **gneiss**, **gnome**, **gnostic**, **gnu**, **phlegm**, etc.

**gnaw** (to eat away by degrees), distinguish from **nor** (neither).

- gnome** (a goblin, elf, or sprite), distinguish from **nome** (1. A term in algebra. 2. The name for a province in Greece).
- gnu** (a South African antelope), distinguish from **knew** (past tense of know), and **new** (recent; lately made).
- gon'do-lier'**, not *gondoleer*.
- good"-by'**, **good"-bye**. Both forms are in use. Contracted from *God be with you*.
- goose** (a web-footed bird), has a plural that is formed irregularly: **geese**. See RULES, p. 13. Distinguish from **goose** (a tailor's smoothing iron), the plural of which is formed by adding s, **goos'es**.
- gored** (pierced with a horn or spear), distinguish from **gourd** (a melon-like fruit or plant).
- gor'geous**, not *gorgeous*, even if derived from the Old French *gorgias*, gaudy.
- go-ril'la** (an ape), distinguish from **guer-ril'la** (an irregular soldier).
- gor'mand**, **gour'mand**. Both forms are in use but the first is the more common.
- gor'mand-ize**, not *gourmandise*.
- gos'sa-mer**, not *gossomer*.
- gov'ern-or**, not *governer* or *guvenor*.
- gov'ern-ment**, not *government*.
- grab** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **grabbed**, **grab'bing**, and the noun **grab'ber**.
- grain** (a kernel; also, a particle, as of sand), distinguish from **graine** (a silkworm's egg).
- gram**, **gramme**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails.
- gram'mar**, not *grammar*.
- gram'ma-phone** (a written symbol, as a letter, indicating a sound; a phonetic sign), distinguish from **gram'-o-phone** (a protected trade-mark name for a phonograph).
- gran'a-ry**, not *grainery*.
- grand**. Many persons who use this word in compounds that denote relationship erroneously fail to pronounce the *d*, as in **grand'fa'ther**, **grand'moth'er**, which they render as if spelt *granfather*, *granmother*.
- grand'er** (more grand), distinguish from **gran'deur** (magnificence).
- grate** (a basket-like framework of bars for fuel; also, harsh irritating), distinguish from **great** (big; eminent).

**grate** (*v.*) drops the *e* in forming the participles **grat'ed**, **grat'ing**.

**grate'ful**, not *greatful*. See **-FUL**.

**grat'er** (a kitchen utensil with rough surface), distinguish from **great'er** (larger).

**gra-va'men**. A law term, derived from the Latin, of which the plural is formed irregularly, by dropping *en* and adding *ina*, **gra-vam'i-na**.

**grave** retains final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **grave'ly**, **grave'ness**.

**grav'el**. The participles of this verb are written **grav'eled** or **grav'elled**, **grav'el-ing** or **grav'el-ling**.

**gray**, **grey**. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States; the second is current in Great Britain.

**graz'er** (an animal, as a sheep, that feeds on grass), distinguish from **graz'ier** (one who pastures or deals in cattle).

**grease** (animal fat), distinguish from **Greece** (a country of Southern Europe).

**greas'y** changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **greas'i-er**, **greas'i-est**.

**great**, **great'er**. See under **GRATE**; **GRATER**.

**greave** (a bushy bough, or grove), distinguish from **grieve** (to afflict with sorrow) and **grieve** (a steward; farm-bailiff). Compare **GRIEF**.

**greaves** (leg armor protecting knee to ankle), distinguish from **grieves** (laments).

**Green'wich**. A place-name variously pronounced: in the United States, *Green'witch*; in Great Britain, *Green'itch*.

**gren"a-dier'**, not *grenadeer*.

**gren"a-dine'**, not *grenadeen* as it is pronounced.

**grew** (did grow), distinguish from **grue** (to grieve, pain, or shudder).

**grew'some**. Obsolete form of **GRUESOME**.

**grey**. See under **GRAY**.

**grey'hound'**, not *grayhound*.

**grid'dle** drops the *e* in forming the participles **grid'dled**, **grid'dling**.

**grief** retains the final *f* in forming the plural, and the letter *s* is added, **griefs**. See **RULE**, p. 9.

**grieve** drops the final *e* before *-ance*, **griev'ance**, and in forming the participles **grieved**, **griev'ing**.

**grieves**. See under **GREAVES**.

**grin** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **grinned**, **grin'ning**.

**grind.** The past tense of this verb is **ground**, not *grinded*.

**grip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **gripped**, **grip'ping**.

**grip** (to grasp), distinguish from **gripe** (to give pain to). Originally both words meant "to grasp; seize," but the modern tendency is to make the distinction noted above.

**gris'ly** (fearful; horrible), distinguish from **grist'ly** (cartilaginous), and **griz'zly** (grayish).

**gris'tle**, not *grissel* as it is pronounced. Note that the *t* is silent. See *T*.

**groan** (a moaning cry as of one in pain), distinguish from **grown** (increased as in age or size).

**groat** (a former English coin worth four-pence), distinguish from **Grote** (a family name) and from **grot** (a grotto or cavern).

**gro'cer** (a dealer in groceries), distinguish from **gross'er** (coarser; larger; ruder). The two words are derived from a common source—the *grocer* originally dealing in goods in large bulk.

**grom'et**, **grom'met**, frequently pronounced **grum'met**, which is an alternative form. Of the three forms the second prevails in the United States; the first and third being used in Great Britain.

**grov'el.** The participles of this verb are written **grov'eled** or **grov'elled**, **grov'el-ing** or **grov'el-ling**.

**grow.** The past participle of this verb is formed irregularly by adding *n* to the root-word: **grown**, not *growed*. The present participle is **grow'ing**; the imperfect tense is **grew**.

**grub** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **grubbed**, **grub'bing**, and the noun **grub'ber**.

**grudge** drops the *e* in forming the participles **grudged**, **grudg'ing**.

**grue.** See under **GREW**.

**grue'some**, not *grewsome* or *grusome*.

**gua'no**, not *gwano* as it is pronounced.

**guar'an-tee** (to be responsible for), distinguish from **guar'an-ty** (a responsibility). The distinction noted here is not always observed and the words have been used interchangeably. Note that there is only one *r* in these words, and that the *u* is silent as it is also in words in which it is followed by another vowel.

**guar'an-tor**, not *guarrantor*.

**guard** (a protector; watchman; also, to watch), distinguish from **gard** (a garden, yard; gravel, also, trimming or binding).

**guer-ril'la** (an irregular soldier), distinguish from **gor-il'la** (an ape).

**guess**, not *gess* as it is pronounced, even if derived from the Middle English *gessen*. See **G**.

**guessed** (did **GUESS**), distinguish from **guest** (a person who is entertained).

**guide** drops the *e* in forming the participles **guid'ed**, **guid'ing**, and the noun **guid'ance**.

**guild** (a corporation or society), distinguish from **gild** (to cover thinly with gold).

**guilt** (criminality; wickedness), distinguish from **gilt** (overlaid with gold).

**guir'pe**, not *gimp* or *gamp* as it is pronounced.

**gui-pure'**, not *gipure*.

**gulf**, not *gulph*.

**gul'li-ble**, not *gullable*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 9.

**gum** doubles the *m* in forming the participles **gummed**, **gum'ming**, the adjective **gum'my**, and the noun **gum'mi-ness**.

**gun** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **gunned**, **gun'ning**, and the noun **gun'ner**.

**gun'wale**, not *gunnel* or *gunwhale*. The word is a compound of *gun* and *wale*, a plank.

**gut** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **gut'ted**, **gut'ting**.

**gut'ter** (a waterway at a roadside), distinguish from Latin, *guttur* (the throat).

**gut'tur-al**, not *gutteral*.

**gym-na'si-um** forms the plural by adding *s* in English, and changes *um* to *a* in Latin, **gym-na'si-a**.

**gy-ro-scope**, not *ji'roscope* as it is pronounced.

## H

- h**. In English this letter is little else than an aspiration before the vowel that follows it. It is used as a single letter always represented by *h* in common spelling. Initial *h* is silent in many words, as in *heir*, *honest*, *honor*, *hour*, etc. It is silent also (1) after the letter *r*, as in *catarrh*, *myrrh*, *rhapsody*, *rhetoric*, *rhinoceros*, *rhubarb*, etc.; (2) when preceded by a vowel, as in *ah!*



*bahl* *ohl* (3) when medial, as in *shepherd* and in certain English proper names, as in *Balham*, *Chatham*, *Clapham*, *Durham*, etc.; and (4) in England, generally when preceded by *w*, as in such words as *while*, *when*, *whet*, *where*, which are uniformly pronounced *wile*, *wen*, *wet*, *wear*. Formerly, the initial *h* of certain other words, as *herb*, *history*, *hostler*, *hospital*, *humble*, *humor*, was not pronounced, but the letter has returned to favor and is now heard in these words. See *W*.

**ha'be-as cor'pus**, not *habias corpus*.

**ha-bit"u-é'**. Pronounced as if spelt *habichuey*.

**hæm'or-rhage**. Classic form of **HEMORRHAGE**.

**hag'gard**, not *haggerd*.

**hail** (frozen rain; a call), distinguish from **hale** (healthy).

**hair** (the growth of filaments covering the head), distinguish from **hare** (a rabbit-like animal with a cleft upper-lip), and **heir** (one who inherits from another).

**half** changes *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural, **halves**. Note that the *l* is silent in this word and its derivatives and compounds. See *L*.

**hall** (a large room, a passageway), distinguish from **haul** (to drag or shift).

**hal-lo'** (a call; hail), distinguish from **hal'low** (holy).

**hand'ker-chief** retains the final *f* with *s* added to form the plural **hand'ker-chiefs**, not *handkerchieves*.

**hand'some** (pretty), distinguish from **han'som** (a two-wheeled cab).

**hap'py**. The *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added.

**hap'pi-er**, **hap'pi-est**, **hap'pi-ly**, **hap'pi-ness**.

**ha-rangue'**. Note that the *ue* is silent. See *ue*.

**har'ass**, not *harras*—a common error. Distinguish this word from **em-bar'rass** which is spelt with two *r*'s.

**har'ass** forms its participles by adding *-ed* and *-ing*, **har'assed**, **har'ass-ing**.

**har'bor**, **har'bour**. Both spellings are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**har'bor** (a port of refuge), distinguish from **ar'bor** (a bower or shaded nook of trees).

**har'dy** changes *y* to *i* before a suffix; as, **har'di-er**, **har'di-est**, **har'di-hood**, **har'di-ly**, **har'di-ness**.

**hare**. Distinguish from **HAIR** and **HEIR**.

**hare'lip**, not *hair-lip*.

**har'mo-nize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **har'mo-nized**, **har'mo-niz'ing**.

**har'mo-ny** changes *y* to *i* before a suffix; as, **har-mon'ic**, **har-mo'ni-ous**, **har'mo-nist**, **har'mo-nize**, etc.

**harras**. Misspelling of **HARASS**.

**hart** (a stag or male deer), distinguish from **heart** (an organ of the animal body).

**hate** retains the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **hate'ful**.

**haugh'ty** changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in the comparative and superlative degrees, **haugh'ti-er**, **haugh'ti-est** and before *-ly* and *-ness*, **haugh'ti-ly**, **haugh'ti-ness**. In all these words the *gh* is silent. See **GH**.

**haul** (to transport; drag), distinguish from **hall** (a large room; also, a passageway), and compare **ALL**; **AWL**.

**haunch**, not *hanch* as sometimes pronounced.

**haunt**, not *hant* as sometimes pronounced.

**hav'oc**, not *havock*.

**hay** (dried grass), distinguish from **hey** (an exclamation).

**haz'ard**, not *hazzard*.

**head**, not *hed* as pronounced, the *a* being silent in this word and all its derivatives. See **EA**, p. 75.

**heal** (to cure), distinguish from **heel** (the back part of the foot).

**heap**, not *heep* as it is pronounced.

**hear** (to listen to), distinguish from **here** (in this place).

**heard** (did **HEAR**), distinguish from **herd** (a drove).

**hearse** (a vehicle for the dead), distinguish from **herse** (a lattice or grating).

**heart**. Distinguish from **HART**.

**hearth**, not *harth*.

**heat**, not *heet*.

**heath**, not *heeth*.

**hea'then**, not *heethen*.

**heave**, not *heev* or *heve*.

**heave** drops the final *e* in forming the participles **heaved**, **heav'ing**.

**heav'en**, not *heven*.

**heav'y**, not *hevy*.

**heel**. Distinguish from **HEAL**.

**heif'er**, not *hefer* as pronounced.

**height**, not *heighth*—a common error. See **GH**.

**hei'nous**, not *haynous* or *heynous*. See **EI**, pp. 7 and 76.

**heir** (an inheritor), distinguish from **air** (atmosphere).

Note that the *h* is silent. See **H** and compare **HARE**.

**he'li-o-trope**, not *heeliotrope*.

**hel'le-bore**, not *hellibore*.

**Hel'le-nize**, not *Hellenise*.

**hem'or-rhage**, not *hæm'or-rhage* (its classic form now in use only in scientific work) or *hemorrhage*.

**herd** (a drove), distinguish from **heard** (did **HEAR**).

**here** (in this place), distinguish from **hear** (to listen to).

**her'e-dit'a-ment**, not *hereditament* or *heraditiment*.

**he-red'i-ta-ry**, not *heredatery*.

**herse**. Distinguish from **HEARSE**.

**hes'i-tate**, not *hezitate*.

**hew** (chop, work out laboriously), distinguish from **hue** (shade of a color; also, an outcry), and **Hugh** (a man's name).

**hic'cup**, **hic'cough**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails. See **COUGH**.

**hide** (conceal), distinguish from **hied** (hastened to).

**hie** (to hasten), distinguish from **high** (elevated; lofty).

**hie**. The past participle of this verb is **hied**, the present participle is spelt **hie'ing** or **hy'ing**, but the first prevails.

**hied**. Distinguish from **HIDE**.

**high**. In this word and all its derivatives the *gh* is silent. See **GH**.

**higher** (taller), distinguish from **hire** (wages for service).

**him** (a pronoun, the objective case of **HE**), distinguish from **hymn** (a song of praise).

**hin'der** (to check; impede), distinguish from **hind'er** (pertaining to the rear). The words are spelt alike, but divided and pronounced differently.

**Hindoo**, **Hin'du**. Both forms are in use but the second is preferred.

**hip** doubles the *p* in the participles **hipped**, **hip'ping**.

**hip'po-pot'a-mus**, not *hipopotamus*, the word being from the Greek *hippos*, horse and *potamos*, river.

**hire**. Distinguish from **HIGHER**.

**his** (belonging to **HIM**), distinguish from **hiss** (the sound made by a serpent).

**his'to-ry**, a word of three syllables, not *histry*, a vulgarism due to careless pronunciation.

**hoar** (white; frost), distinguish from **hoer** (one who uses a hoe).

**hoard'** (a store, as of money), distinguish from **horde'** (a rabble).

**hoard'ing** (a wooden fence), not *hording*.

**hoarse** (harsh), distinguish from **horse** (a draft animal).

**hoe** *retains* the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, **hoe'ing**.

**hoes** (the plural of **hoe**, a garden implement), distinguish from **hose** (rubber tubing, or stockings).

**hog** *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **hogged**, **hog'ging**.

**hogs'head**, not *hogshed*.

**hole** (an opening), distinguish from **whole** (entire, complete).

**holm** (an evergreen oak; also, low lying land), distinguish from **home** (a dwelling-place; abode).

**ho'ly** (hallowed; sacred) *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **ho'-li-er**, **ho'li-est**. Distinguish from **whol'ly** (entirely).

**home**. Distinguish from **HOLM**.

**home'stead**, not *homestead*.

**hom'o-nym**, not *homonyme*.

**hon'est**. One of four parent words in English in which the initial letter is not heard when the words are spoken: the other three being **heir**, **honor**, **hour**.

**hon'or**, **hon'our**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. In this word, and its derivatives, the *h* retained in the spelling is never heard when the words are spoken. See **HONEST**.

**hon'or-a-ry** (conferring honor), distinguish from **on'er-a-ry** (suited for bearing burdens).

**hoof** *retains* the *f* in forming the plural and the letter *s* is added, **hoofs**, not *hooves*.

**hoop** (a circular band), distinguish from **whoop** (a shout; hoot).

**hope** (*v.*) *drops* the *e* in forming the participles **hoped**, **hop'ing**.

**hope** (*n.*) *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **hope'ful**, **hope'less**.

**horde** (a rabble; a gang as of pirates or savages), distinguish from **hoard** (accumulate).

**hor'rible**, not *horrible*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

**horse**. Distinguish from **HOARSE**.

**hose**. Distinguish from **HOES**.

**ho'sier-y**, not *hosery*.

hos'tler. Note that the *t*, and sometimes the *h*, is silent.

Compare OSTLER, and see H and T.

Hou'din (a French conjuror), distinguish from Hou'di-ni (an American master magician and author).

hour (a period of sixty minutes), distinguish from our (belonging to us). See under HONEST.

house drops the *e* in forming the participles housed, hous'ing.

hov'el. The participles of this verb are written hov'eled or hov'elled, hov'el-ing or hov'el-ling.

hov'er, not *huver* as it is pronounced.

hue (a shade of a color; also, a clamorous cry), distinguish from hew (chop; work out laboriously) and Hugh (a man's name).

Hughes (a surname), distinguish from ewes (female sheep), and use (to utilize).

hu'man (pertaining to man or mankind), distinguish from hu-mane' (showing kindness or tenderness).

hum'bug" doubles the *g* in forming the participles hum'-bugged", hum'bug"ging.

hu'mor-ous, not *humorous*.

hur'ry changes the *y* to *i* when -ed is added: hur'ried.

hy'dro-pho'bi-a, not *hydraphobia*.

hy'gi-ene, not *hygene*.

hymn. Distinguish from HIM.

hy-per'bo-la (a plane curve in geometry), distinguish from hy-per'bo-le (exaggeration or overstatement).

hyp'o-crite, not *hippocrite* or *hypocrit*.

hy"po-der'mic, not *hyperdermic*.

hy-pot'e-nuse, not *hypothenus*, a misspelling introduced in 1571, corrected in 1674, restored in 1704, recorrected in 1834, then followed a reversion to the misspelling finally corrected in 1893.

hy-poth'e-cate, not *hypothacate*.

## I

i. This letter is used to represent several sounds in English as *i* in "hit," "pin"; "lie," "isle"; "machine," "police."

-ible, a suffix used to form adjectives from words derived from the Latin having stems that are not *a* stems; as, *credible*, *flexible*, *forcible*, etc. Compare -ABLE.

ice drops the *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles iced, ic'ing. See ICE.

- i'ci-cle**, not *icycle*. Compare BICYCLE.  
**ic'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ly* in **ic'i-ly** and before *-ness* in **ic'i-ness**.  
**i'de-o-graph** (a picture; symbol), distinguish from **i'di-o-graph** (a private or trade-mark).  
**id'i-oc'ra-sy**, not *ideocracy*.  
**id'i-o-syn'cra-sy**, not *ideosyncrasy*.  
**i'dle** (inactive, lazy), distinguish from **i'dol** (an image of worship) and **i'dyl** (a short poem).  
**i'dol-ize**, not *idolise*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i'dol-ized**, **i'dol-iz'ing**.  
**il-leg'i-ble**, not *illedgeable* or *illedgible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.  
**il-lic'it** (unlawful), distinguish from **e-lic'it** (to draw out).  
**Il'li-nois'**. Note that the last syllable is pronounced as if spelt *noy*, the *s* being silent.  
**il-lude'** (to cheat; deceive), distinguish from **elude'** (to avoid). See ALLUDE.  
**il-lu'sion** (unreal image), distinguish from **al-lu'sion** (reference to), and from **e-lu'sion** (evasion by artifice).  
**il-lus'tri-ous**, not *illustrious*.  
**im'age**, not *imidge* as pronounced. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im'aged**, **im'ag-ing**.  
**im-ag'i-na-ry**, not *imaginery*.  
**im'be-cile**, not *imbecil* as pronounced.  
**im-bro'glio**, not *imbroleo* as pronounced. The *g* is silent. An Italian word meaning a perplexing state of affairs or plot.  
**im-brue'** (to wet, drench or soak into), distinguish from **im'-bue'** (to absorb or dye deeply). Both verbs drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im-brued'**, **im-bru'ing**; **im-bued'**, **im-bu'ing**.  
**im'i-table**, not *imitatable*. See -ABLE, p. 5.  
**im'i-tate**, not *immitate*.  
**im'ma-nence** (the state of being inherent), distinguish from **im'mi-nence** (the state of impending).  
**im'ma-nent** (inherent), distinguish from **im'mi-nent** (impending). Compare EMINENT.  
**im-me'di-ate** retains the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **im-me'di-ate-ly**.  
**im-mense'** retains the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant: **im-mense'ly**, **im-mense'ness**, but drops it before *-ity*, **im-men'si-ty**.

- im-merse'** (to dip or plunge into a liquid, as water), distinguish from **e-merse'** (to cause to come to the surface of a liquid).
- im-merse'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **im-mersed'**, **im-mers'ing**.
- im'mi-grant** (one who moves into a country), distinguish from **em'i-grant** (one who moves out of a country).
- im'mi-grate** (to move *into* one country from another), distinguish from **em'i-grate** (to move *out of* one country into another). Note that the first word has two *m*'s, but the second only one.
- im'mi-nence**. Distinguish from **IMMANENCE**. See **-ENCE**, p. 8.
- im'mi-nent** (impending, threatening), distinguish from **em'i-nent** (famous; prominent), and from **im'ma-nent** (inherent).
- im-mis'ci-ble**, not *imissible*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.
- im-mor'tal-ize**, not *immortalise*.
- im-mor'tal-i-za'tion**, not *immortalisation*.
- im-mov'a-ble**, not *immoveable*. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.
- im-mune'** drops the *e* before *-ization*, *-ize*, and *-izing* in **im-mu'ni-za'tion**, **im-mun'ize**, **im-mun'ized**, and **im-mun'iz-ing**.
- im-pair'**, not *impare*.
- im-pair'ment**, not *imparement*.
- im-pale'**, **im-pale'ment**. Alternative forms of **em-pale'**, **em-pale'ment** which are preferred.
- im-pan'el**. The participles of this verb are written **im-pan'eled** or **im-pan'elled**, **im-pan'el-ing** or **im-pan'el-ling**. See **EMPANEL**.
- im-pass'a-ble** (not passable), distinguish from **im-pas'-si-ble** (incapable of feeling or emotion). See **-ABLE**, p. 5.
- im-pe'dance**, not *impedence*. See **-ANCE**, p. 5.
- im-pel'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **im-pelled'**, **im-pel'ling**.
- im'per-cep'ti-ble**, not *imperceptible*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.
- im-pe'ri-al** (pertaining to an emperor), distinguish from **em-pyr'e-al** (heavenly; refined).
- im-per'il** does not double the *l* in forming the participles **im-per'iled**, **im-per'il-ing**.
- im-per-me-a-ble**, not *impermiabile*. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.
- im-per'ti-nence**, not *impertinance*. See p. 8.
- im-pe'ous**, not *impeous*.

**im-ply'** changes *y* to *i* and adds *ed* in forming the past participle **im-plied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **im-ply'ing**.

**im-pose'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **im-posed'**, **im-pos'ing**, and in the adjective **im-pos'a-ble**.

**im-pos'tor** (a trickster), not *imposter*. Distinguish from **im-pos'ture** (a trick).

**im-press'i-ble**, not *impressable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

**im"pro-viso'**, not *improvize*.

**im-pugn'**, not *impune* as it is pronounced. Note that the *g* is silent in this word and its derivatives **im-pug'na-ble**, **im-pugn'er**, etc. Compare **CONDIGN**, **ENSIGN**. *Impugn* is derived from the Latin *in*, against, and *pugno*, fight.

**im'pulse** drops the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel.  
**im-pu'ni-ty**, not *impugnity*. This word is derived from the Latin *in*, not, and *pæna*, punishment. Compare **IMPUGN**.

**in** (amidst; among), distinguish from **inn** (a tavern; hotel; public house).

**in"as-much'** should always be written as one word. Compare **IN SO FAR**.

**in-bred'**, not *inbread*.

**in-breed'** drops one *e* in forming the past participle and the past tense **in-bred'**, but *retains* both in **in-breed'ing**.

**in"can-des'cence**, not *incandescence*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 8.

**in-case'**, **en-case'**. Both forms are used but the first is preferred.

**in-cense'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-censed'**, **in-cens'ing**.

**in'cho-ate**. The *ch* in this word and its derivatives is pronounced as *k*. Compare **CH**.

**in'cide"**, (to cut into; also, to fall upon), distinguish from **in'side"** (within).

**in'ci-dent**, not *incedent* or *insident*, obsolete forms.

**in-cip'i-ent** (in the first stage), distinguish from **in-sip'i-ent** (stupid; foolish). See **SUFFIXES**, p. 8.

**in-cise'**, not *insize*. This parent word drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-cised'**, **in-cis'ing**, and before *-ive*, *-ively*, *-iveness*, as **in-ci'sive**, **in-ci'sive-ly**, **in-ci'sive-ness**.



- in-ci'sion** (the act of cutting into), distinguish from **in-si'tion** (the act of engrafting). The first is from the Latin *in*, into, and *cædo*, cut; the second, from *in*, in and *serere*, sow, plant.
- in-cite'** (stir up, stimulate), distinguish from **in'sight** (understanding, penetration).
- in-close'**, **en-close'**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails in the United States; the second is preferred in England except in legal and statutory language relating to enclosed waste-lands.
- in-com'pa-ra-ble**, not *incomparable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in'com-pat'i-ble**, not *incomptable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
- in-com'pe-ten-cy**, not *incompatency*.
- in'con-test'a-ble**, not *incontestible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in'cor-rupt'i-ble**, not *incorruptable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
- in-creas'a-ble**, not *encreaseable*.
- in-crease'**, not *encrease*.
- in-cred'i-ble**, not *incredible*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
- in-crust'**, not *en crust*.
- in'cu-bus**, not *incubous*.
- in-cum'brance**, not *incumberance*. Alternative form of ENCUMBRANCE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in-cur'** doubles the *r* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-curred'**, **in-cur'ring**.
- in-cur'a-ble**, not *incureable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in-debt'ed**. Note the *b* which is silent in this word and its derivatives. Compare **DEBT**.
- in'de-fat'i-ga-ble**, not *indefatigueable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in'de-fea'si-ble**, not *indefeasable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- in-del'i-ble**, not *indelable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.
- in-dem'ni-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **in-dem'ni-fied**, but retains it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **in-dem'ni-fy'ing**.
- in'de-pen'dence**, not *independance*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- in'de-pen'dent**, not *independant*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- in'de-struc'ti-ble**, not *indestructable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- in'di-an-ap'o-lis**, not *Indiannapolis*.
- in'di-ca'tor**, not *indicator*.
- in-dict'** (to charge with crime), distinguish from **in-dite'** (to write).

**in-dict'ment** (a formal charge of crime), distinguish from **in-dite'ment** (the putting into words or writing).

**in'dis-creet'** (imprudent), distinguish from **in'dis-crete'** (compact).

**in'dis-pen'sa-ble**, not *indispensible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**in-dis'pu-ta-ble**, not *indisputable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**in-dite'** (to write), distinguish from **in-dict'** (to charge with crime).

**in-dite'ment**. Distinguish from INDICTMENT.

**in'di-vis'i-ble**, not *indivisible*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

**in-dorse'**, **in-dorsed'**, **in-dors'ing**. The spelling formerly (following the medieval Latin) and still preferably used in law and commerce; literary use has more commonly followed Middle English analogy and favored the variant form **ENDORSE**, which see.

**in-dorse'ment** preferred in commerce to **en-dorse'ment**. See **ENDORSE**.

**in-duce'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-duced'**, **in-duc'ing**, but retains it before *-ment*, **in-duce'ment**.

**in-duc'i-ble**, not *induceable*. See SUFFIXES, pp. 5 and 9.

**in-duc'tance**, not *inductance*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**in-duc'tor**, not *inducter*.

**in-dulge'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-dulged'**, **in-dulg'ing**.

**in-dul'gence**, not *indulgence*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**in-el'i-gi-ble**, not *inelegible* or *inelligible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**in-fal'li-ble**, not *infallable*; so also **in-fal'li-ble-ness**, **in-fal'li-bil'i-ty**, and **in-fal'li-bly**. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**in-fer** doubles the *r* in forming the participles **in-ferred'**, **in-fer'ring**.

**in-fer'a-ble**, **in-fer'ri-ble**. Both forms are in use but the first is preferred. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**in'fer-ence**, not *inferance*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**in-fir'ma-ry**, not *infirmery*.

**in-flame'** drops the *e* and doubles the *m* in forming the adjectives **in-flam'ma-ble**, **in-flam'ma-to-ry**, and the noun **in'flam-ma'tion**.

**in-flat'er**, **in-fla'tor**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails.

**in-flex'i-ble**, not *inflexable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**in'flu-ence**, not *influenze*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**in-fold'**, **en-fold'**. Both forms are in use equally favored.

- ing.** A participial ending before which verbs that end in *e* (as *love*), usually drop the final *e*. See RULES and compare GUARANTEE.
- in-gen'ious** (clever, skilful), distinguish from **in-gen'u-ous** (free, open).
- ingine.** Misspelling of ENGINE.
- in-graft'.** Alternative form of **en-graft'.**
- in-grain'.** Alternative form of **en-grain'.**
- in'grate,** not *ingreat.*
- in-hal'a-ble,** not *inhaleable.*
- in-hale'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-haled', in-hal'ing.**
- in-here'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-hered', in-her'ing.**
- in-her'ence,** not *inherance.*
- in-her'i-tance,** not *inheritence.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in-her'it-ed,** not *inherited.*
- in-her'i-tor,** not *inheriter.*
- in-her'i-tress** or **in-her'i-trix,** not *inheritoress.*
- in-hu'man** (not according to human form, nature, or intelligence), distinguish from **in'hu-mane'** (lacking compassion; destitute of feeling).
- in-im'i-ta-ble,** not *inimitible* or *inimittable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in'ju-ry** changes *y* to *i* when a suffix is added, **in'ju-ries,** **in-ju'ri-ous.**
- in-laid',** not *inlayed.* Compare LADE and see RULES.
- inn** (a public house, tavern, hotel), distinguish from **in** (amid; among).
- in'no-cence,** not *innocense.*
- in'nu-en'do.** The plural of this word is formed by adding *s* or *es.*
- in-quir'a-ble,** not *inquireable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in-quire', en-quire'.** Both forms are in use, and drop the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-quired', in-quir'ing; en-quired', en-quir'ing.**
- in-quir'y** changes the *y* to *i* and *-es* is added in forming the plural, **in-quir'ies.**
- in-sens'i-ble,** not *insensable.* See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- in'sert** (that which is inserted, as a page in a book), distinguish from **in'set** (that which is set in, as a gem in a mount).
- in'side'** (within), distinguish from **in'cide'** (to cut into).

**in'sight'** (understanding; penetration). Note that *gh* is silent (see GH), and distinguish from **in-cite'** (stir up; stimulate).

**in-sip'i-ent** (stupid; foolish), distinguish from **in-cip'i-ent** (in the first stage). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**in-sis'tence**, not *insistance*.

**in-sis'tent**, not *insistant*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**in-si'tion** (the act of grafting), distinguish from **in-ci'sion** (to cut into).

**in so far** should always be written as three words. Compare INASMUCH.

**in'so-late** (to expose to the sun's rays), distinguish from **in'su-late** (in electricity, to separate one from other conducting bodies).

**in'so-la'tion** (the act of exposing to the sun), distinguish from **in'su-la'tion** (the act of separating conducting bodies). See INSOLATE.

**in-spire'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-spired'**, **in-spir'ing**, and also before *-able*, *-ation*, and *-atory*, as in **in-spir'a-ble**, **in'spi-ra'tion**, **in-spir'a-to-ry**.

**in-sta'ble**. Archaic form of UNSTABLE. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**in-stall'**, not *instal*; but **in-stal'ment** or **in-stall'ment** are both in use, the first being preferred.

**in'stal-la'tion**, not *instalation*.

**in'stance** (an example), not *instence*. Distinguish from **in'stants** (moments).

**in-stead'**, not *insted*. See EA., p. 75.

**in-stil'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **in-stilled'**, **in-stil'ling**, and before *-ation* in forming the noun **in'stil-la'tion**.

**in'su-lar**, not *insuler*.

**in-sure'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **in-sured'**, **in-sur'ing**.

Originally *assure* but used by Chaucer as *ensure* ("Legend of Good Women," l. 2115). *Insure* is merely a variant spelling of ENSURE employed in commercial use in referring to life insurance, in which sense *ensure* is now entirely obsolete.

**in'te-ger**, not *intejer* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *in*, not, and *tango*, touch.

**in-tem'per-ance**, not *intemperence*.

**in-tem'per-ate**, not *intemperate*.

- in-ten'dance, not *intendence*. This word means "business management," and has nothing to do with what one may *intend*, and must therefore not be confused with it. Compare SUPERINTENDENCE.
- in-tense' (extreme), distinguish from in-tents' (intention; purposes).
- in-ten'sion (straining; stretching), distinguish from in-ten'tion (determination).
- in-ter (to bury), distinguish from en'ter (to go in). *Inter* doubles the *r* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles in-terred', in-ter'ring.
- in"ter-cede', not *interceed*. This verb drops the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles in"ter-ced'ed, in"ter-ced'ing.
- in"ter-change' drops the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles in"ter-changed', in"ter-chang'ing, but retains it before -ability, -able, -ableness, -ably, as in"ter-change'a-bil'i-ty, in"ter-change'a-ble, etc.
- in"ter-fere', not *interfear*. This verb drops the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles in"ter-fered', in"ter-fer'ing, and before -ence in forming the noun in"ter-fer'ence.
- in"ter-mit' doubles the final *t* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles in"ter-mit'ted, in"ter-mit'ting.
- in"ter-mit'tent, not *intermittant*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.
- in-tern', in-terne'. Both forms are in use.
- in-ter'ro-ga"tor, not *interrogater*.
- in-trench'. The form used chiefly in the military sense. See ENTRENCH.
- in'tri-ca-cy, not *intricasy*.
- in-trigue' drops the *e* before -ed, -er, and -ing in forming the past participle in-trigued', the noun in-trigu'er, and the present participle in-trigu'ing.
- in"tu-mesce' (to swell; expand), not *intumess*.
- in"tu-mes'cence, not *intumesense*.
- in'va-lid, not *invalid*.
- in-val'u-a-ble, not *invaluable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- in-vel'gle, not *inveegle* as it is commonly pronounced. See EL.
- in-vent'i-ble, not *inventable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- in'ven-to'ry, not *incentary*.
- in-vis'i-ble, not *invisible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.
- ir-as'ci-ble, not *irabile*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**ir**'i-des'cence, not *irridescence*.

**ir**'i-des'cent, not *irridescant*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**i**'ron, not spelt as pronounced *i'ern*.

**ir**-rep'a-ra-ble, not *irreparable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**ir**'re-sist'i-ble, not *irresistible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**ir**'re-spon'si-ble, not *irresponsible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 9.

**ir**-re-triev'a-ble, not *irretreveable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**ir**-rup'tion (a bursting or rushing in), distinguish from **e**-rup'tion (a bursting out).

**i**'sin-glass, not *izinglass*.

**is**'land. Note that the *s* is silent when the word is pronounced.

**isle** (an island), distinguish from **aisle** (a passageway).

**-ism**. A suffix, usually pronounced as if spelt *-izm*, denoting act, condition, doctrine, or idiom.

**i**-sos'ce-les, not *isosiles*.

**is**'su-ance, not *issuance*.

**is**'sue drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **is**'sued, **is**'su-ing.

**isth**'mus, pronounced as if spelt *ismus*, the *th* being silent.

**i**-tal'i-cize, not *italisize*. This verb drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i**-tal'i-cized, **i**-tal'i-ciz'ing.

**i**'tem-ize, not *itemise*. This verb drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **i**'tem-ized, **i**'tem-iz'ing.

**i**-tin'er-a-ry, not *itinary* or *itinery*.

**its** (possessive case of **it**), distinguish from **it's** ('a contraction of "it is").

## J

**j**. In English the sound of this letter is represented by:

(1) *j*, initial and medial, as in *jam*, *ajar*, etc. (2) *g*, *ge*, *gi*, *gg*, as in *gender*, *gill*, etc., *age*, *college*, etc., *pigeon*, *religion*, *exaggerate*, etc. (3) *dg*, as in *judge*, *ridge*, etc. (4) *di*, *de*, as in *soldier*, *grandeur*, *verdure*, etc.

**jab** doubles the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **jabbed**, **jabbing**.

**jag** doubles the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **jagged**, **jagging**.

**jam** (a sweet conserve of fruit; also a crush), **jamb** (a sidepost as of a doorway). Note that the *b* in **jamb** is silent when the word is pronounced. See **B**.

jan'i-tor, not *janiter*.

jar"di'nière', not *jardineer* or *jardinier*.

jeal'ous, not *jealous* as it is pronounced. See *EA*.

jeop'ard-ize, not *jeopardise* used by some English writers but not accepted as standard.

Jes'se (a man's name), distinguish from Jes'sie (a woman's name).

jest'er (one who jokes), distinguish from ges'ture (a motion with the hand).

jet'sam, not *jetsome* or *jetsum*.

jew'eled, jew'elled; jew'el-ing, jew'el-ling; jew'el-er, jew'el-ler. All forms are in use; the first prevailing in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

Jew'ry (the Jewish people), distinguish from ju'ry (men sworn in to try a law suit and render a verdict).

Jews (Hebrews), distinguish from juice (vegetable or animal fluid).

jib (a triangular sail), distinguish from gib (to balk, as a horse).

Jo-han'nes-burg (a city in South Africa), not *Johannisberg* (a village on the Rhine).

join'ter (a carpenter's tool for planing the edges of boards), distinguish from join'ture (a settlement at law made on a woman instead of dower).

joist, not *joyst*.

joule (a unit of electrical energy), distinguish from jowl (the cheek or jaw).

judge drops final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *judged*, *judg'ing*.

judg'ment, judge'ment. Both forms are in use but the first prevails.

jug'gler (one who performs tricks of legerdemain), distinguish from ju'gu-lar (one of the veins of the neck).

juic'y, the *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, as juic'i-er, juic'i-est, juic'i-ness.

ju'rör, not *juror*. Compare *PERJURER*.

ju'ry. Distinguish from *JEW'RY*.

jus'ti-fy. Final *y* is changed to *i* before *-able* and *-ed*, jus'ti-fi'a-ble, jus'ti-fied.

jut doubles the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles jut'ted, jut'ting.

ju've-nile, not *juvenil* as pronounced.

- k.** In modern English this letter is used to replace ambiguous *c* before *e*, *i*, *y*, etc. It is silent before *n*, as in *knife*, *knowledge*, etc. In this book *k* is used: (1) For *k* in the common spelling, as in *brakeman*, *kangaroo*, *skate*, *kitten*, *Koran*, *taking*, etc. (2) For *c* when it has the sound of *k*, as in *cake*, *cur*, *cure*. (3) For *ch*, as in *anarchy*, *chemistry*. (4) For *ck*, as in *black*. See **C**. **K** is used also to transliterate *k* and *kh* from strange languages.
- kaf'fir**, **kaf'ir**. Both forms are in use.
- Kai'ser** (the German form of *Cæsar*), distinguish from **Kay'ser** (a family name).
- kale**, not *kail*, a variant form now seldom used.
- ka-lei'do-scope**, not *kalidoscope*.
- kal'en-dar**. A variant form of *cal'en-dar* not now used.
- kalsomine**. Misspelling of *calcimine*.
- ka'ty-did**, not *catydid*.
- kau'ri** (a tree of New Zealand), distinguish from **cow'ry** (a shell used in Africa as money).
- keel** (a lengthwise timber in the frame of a ship), distinguish from **Kiel** (a Prussian seaport).
- keep** (to retain) is spelt the same way as **keep** (the chief tower of a castle).
- Kelt**, **Kelt'ic**. Alternative forms of **Celt**, **Celtic** which are more frequently used.
- kept**, not *kep*, a vulgar mispronunciation.
- ke-ram'ic**, **ke-ram'ics**. Alternative forms of **ce-ram'ic**, **ce-ram'ics** which are more frequently used.
- kerb**, **kerb'stone**. Alternative forms of **curb**, **curb'stone** which are more frequently used.
- ker'nel** (the heart of a nut), distinguish from **colo'nel** (a regimental commander).
- ker'o-sene**, not *kerosine*.
- ketch** (a strongly built two-masted vessel), distinguish from **catch** (to seize).
- Kew** (a town on the Thames, England), distinguish from **cue** (1. A hint. 2. A long straight rod used in billiards. 3. A tail as of hair. 4. A long line of persons).
- key** (1. An instrument for opening a lock. 2. An islet), distinguish from **quay** (a wharf).
- kha'ki**, not *kahki* or *khakee*.



**kha'lif.** Alternative form of **ca'lif**.

**khe-dive'**, not *kodeew* or *khidive*.

**kid'naped**" or **kid'napped**, **kid'nap'ing** or **kid'nap"-ping**. Both forms are in use, the second being etymologically correct.

**kid'nap-er** or **kid'nap-per**. Both forms are in use.

**kid'ney** does not change final *y* to *i* in forming the plural, but adds *s*: **kid'neys**, not *kidnies*.

**Kiel**. Distinguish from **KEEL**.

**kill** (to slay), distinguish from **kiln** (an oven or furnace for baking, drying, or burning products) in which the *n* is silent.

**Kim'ber-ley**, not *Kimberly*.

**klep"to-ma'ni-a**. Preferred form of **clep"to-ma'ni-a**.

**kn**. When used at the beginning of a word the *k* of this digraph is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS** and **K**.

**knag** (a knot in wood), distinguish from **nag** (a small horse). See **K** and **KN**.

**knap** (1. To break short. 2. A cracking noise as of something breaking. 3. The crown of a hill), distinguish from **nap** (1. To take a short sleep. 2. A short sleep. 3. The surface fibers of flannel or woolen goods). The verbs *double* the *p* in forming the participles.

**knave** (a rascal; a rogue), distinguish from **nave** (1. The main body of a church. 2. The hub of a wheel), and from **na-ive'** (ingenuous), and from.

**knead** (1. To mix as dough. 2. To operate upon), distinguish from **need** (want, poverty).

**knee**, **kneel**, **knell**, **knife**, **knit**, **knob**, **knock**, **knot**, **know**, **knowl'edge**, **knuckle**, etc. In all these words and those that follow the *k* is silent. See **K** and **KN**.

**knew** (past tense of **KNOW**), distinguish from **new** (modern; of recent origin), **gnu** (a South African antelope).

**knick'er-bock"ers**, initial *k* is silent—not *nickerbockers*.

**knife**, *changes* the *fe* to *ves* in forming the plural, **knives**.

**knight** (a champion, as one bred to the profession of arms), distinguish from **night** (the period when the sun is below the horizon).

**knit** (to weave), distinguish from **nit** (the egg of an insect).

**knit** *doubles* the *t* in **knit'table**, **knit'ted**, **knit'ter**, **knit'ting**. Note that the *k* is silent. See **K** and **KN**.

**knob** *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **knobbed**, **knob'bing**. Note that the *k* is silent. See **K** and **KN**.

**knot** (entanglement; also, a nautical mile), distinguish from **not** (the adverb of negation).

**know** (to understand), distinguish from **no** (negative).

**knows** (having knowledge), distinguish from **noes** (plural of **no**), and **nose** (the organ of smell).

1. In English this letter usually indicates its own sound, as in *late, lever, live, love*, etc., but it is silent when used in a certain number of words in combination with *a*, and strengthens it, as in *alms, balm, palmistry, psalmist, balk, calk, walk*, etc. Formerly silent in *holm*, it is now indicated as pronounced by modern lexicographers, yet in *folk* it still remains silent.

This letter is suppressed in some other words, as *almond, calf, calve, chaldron, falcon, fulfil, halser, half, halve, malmsey, salmon, salve* (noun, but not in the verb), *solder, talbot* (a hound); also in the three kindred words *could, should* and *would*.

**la'bel**. The participles of this verb are written **la'beled** or **la'belled**, **la'bel-ing** or **la'bel-ling**.

**labor, la'bour**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. So also with all its derivatives.

**lab'o-ra-to'ry**, not *labratory* as spelled and spoken by the careless. The word is from the Latin *labor*, work, and the suffix *-oria* (Eng., *-ory*), signifying the "place" or "thing where."

**lab'y-rinth**, not *labarynth, labirynth, or laborinth*.

**lac** (a gum or tree-sap), distinguish from **lack** (want).

**lach'es** (neglect), distinguish from **latches** (plural of *latch*, a fastening for a door).

**lacks** (needs), distinguish from **lax** (loose, yielding).

**lac'quer**, not *lacker*.

**la-crosse'**, not *lacross*.

**lade** (to load; ladle), distinguish from **laid** (placed).

**la'dy** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **la'dies**, but *retains* it before *-hood, -ism, -like*, and *-ship* in **la'dy-hood, la'dy-ism, la'dy-like, la'dy-ship**.

**lain** (past participle of **LIE**, to rest), distinguish from **lane** (a narrow way or path).

**lair** (a den or sleeping place of a wild animal), distinguish from **lay'er** (a stratum, courses or coat).

**lamb.** Note that the *b* is silent in this word and its derivatives. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2 and B.

**lam'bre-quin**, not *lambrekin* as it is pronounced.

**land'lord'**. Commonly mispronounced as if spelt *lanlord*.

**lane.** Distinguish from LAIN.

**lan'guage** (speech), distinguish from **lan'guish** (to become weak or faint).

**lan'guor**, not *langer* as it is pronounced.

**Lans'downe**, not *landsdown*.

**lap** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **lapped'**, **lap'ping**.

**laps** (wraps; licks), distinguish from **lapse** (to become void).

**lapse** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lapsed**, **laps'ing**, and before *-able* in the adjective **laps'a-ble**.

**lar'va** (a caterpillar or grub), distinguish from **la'va** (melted volcanic rock).

**lar'va.** The plural of this noun is written **lar'væ** or **lar'vas**.

**lar'ynx.** The *x* in this word is dropped in writing the plural and *-ges* is added, **laryn'ges**, a Greek plural adopted in English; also, in its derivatives **laryn'ge-al**, **lar"yn-gi'tis**. These are all words formed from the Greek.

**las-civ'i-ous**, not *lasivious* as it is pronounced.

**latch'es** (it does latch or close), distinguish from **lach'es** (neglect).

**lat'er** (at a subsequent time), distinguish from **lat'ter** (the second of two things).

**lat'tice**, not *lattis* as it is pronounced. In the verb the *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **lat'ticed**, **lat'tic-ing**.

**laud** (praise highly), distinguish from **lord** (a title of veneration or nobility).

**laud'a-ble**, not *laudible* or *lordable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.

**lau'da-num**, not *lodanum*.

**laugh**, **laugh'a-ble**, **laugh'er**, **laugh'ing**, **laugh'ter**.

The *ugh* in these words is pronounced as *f*. See GR and RULES and the SUFFIXES, pp. 5, 7, and 9.

**launch**, not *lanch* as it is pronounced.

**laun'der, laun'der-er, laun'dress, laun'dry, laun'dry-man.** Note the spelling of the first syllable of these words which is sometimes pronounced as if spelt *lan-* or *lorn-*.

**laun'dry** changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural, **laun'dries**.

**lawn** (fine linen; also, a grass-covered plot), distinguish from **lorn** (forsaken).

**lax** (loose; yielding), distinguish from **lacks** (needs).

**lay** drops the *y* and adds *-id* in forming the past participle **laid**, but retains it and adds *-ing* in forming the present participle, **lay'ing**.

**lay'er** (a course, stratum, or row), distinguish from **lair** (the den or sleeping-place of a wild beast).

**la'zy** drops the *y* in forming the comparative and superlative degrees **la'zi-er, la'zi-est**, and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **la'zi-ly, la'zi-ness**.

**lea** (a meadow), distinguish from **lee** (opposite to the wind).

**leach** (to wash by draining), distinguish from **leech** (to bleed with leeches).

**leach**, not **letch** which is a British spelling.

**lead** (to guide by drawing along), distinguish from **lead** (to cover, fasten, fix, or separate with lead), because the past tense of the first is **led** and of the second, **lead'ed**.

**lead** (a metal), distinguish from **led** (guided by drawing).

**leads** (conducts), distinguish from **Leeds** (a town in Yorkshire, England).

**leaf** (a part of a plant; something flat and thin, as a page of a book), distinguish from **lief** (willingly, freely).

**leaf**, in forming the plural changes the *f* to *ves*, **leaves**. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 14, sec. 3.

**leak** (an opening), distinguish from **leek** (a vegetable).

**lean** (1. To bend or incline from an erect position. 2. Thin, lank), distinguish from **li'en** (a legal claim on property).

**leap'er** (one who jumps), distinguish from **lep'er** (one who has leprosy).

**lease** (a contract), distinguish from **leash** (three of a kind; also, a line or thong to hold a hunting-dog), and **lees** (dregs, settlements).

**lease** drops the final *e* before *-able*, **leas'a-ble**.

**leased** (past tense of LEASE), distinguish from **least** (smallest).

- leave (to allow to stay in any place or condition), distinguish from **leave** (to put forth leaves), because the past participle of the first is **left** and of the second, **leaved**.
- leave (permission), distinguish from **lieve** (willingly).
- leaves. Plural of **LEAF**.
- led. Distinguish from **LEAD**.
- lee. Distinguish from **LEA**.
- Leeds. Distinguish from **LEADS**.
- leek. Distinguish from **LEAK**.
- lees. Distinguish from **LEASE**.
- leg *doubles* the *g* in forming the adjectives **legged**, **leg'gy** and the noun **leg'ging**, which is used chiefly in the plural **leg'gings**, not *leggings*.
- le'gal-ize. not *legalise*.
- leg'i-ble, not *legable*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 8.
- le-git'i-mate, not *legitamate*.
- Leices'ter, not *Lester* as pronounced.
- Leip'zig, not *Leipsic*.
- lei'sure, not *leisure*, *leezur*, or *lezur* as it is pronounced.
- le'man (a sweetheart), distinguish from **lem'on** (a bright yellow acid fruit).
- leop'ard, not *lepard* as it is pronounced. Distinguish from **LEPER**.
- lep'er (one who suffers from leprosy), distinguish from **LEAPER**.
- lese"-maj'es-ty, not *leez-majesty* as it is pronounced. In French **lèse-majesté**, pronounced *lays"-ma"jes"tay'*.
- less'en (to reduce), distinguish from **les'son** (an exercise to be studied).
- less'er (smaller; inferior), distinguish from **les'sor** (one who grants a lease).
- let'tuce (a vegetable), distinguish from **Let'tice** (a woman's name).
- lev'ee (1. An embankment. 2. A reception), distinguish from **lev'y** (a call for money or troops, as by a government).
- lev'el. The participles of this verb are spelt **lev'eled** or **lev'elled**, **lev'el-ing** or **lev'el-ling**, and the noun derived from it is spelt **lev'el-er** or **lev'el-ler**.
- li'ar (one who utters falsehoods), distinguish from **li'er** (one who lies down), and **lyre** (a musical instrument).

**li'bel.** The derivatives of this verb are all spelt in two ways, as follows: **li'bel-ant** or **li'bel-lant**, **li'beled** or **li'belled**, **li'bel-ing** or **li'bel-ling**, **li'bel-er** or **li'bel-ler**, **li'bel-ous** or **li'bel-lous**.

**lib'er-al-ize**, not *liberalise* or *libralize*.

**li'bra-ry**, not *liberary* or *libry*. In forming the plural change *y* to *i* and add *es*, **li'bra-ries**.

**lice.** Plural of LOUSE. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 13.

**li'cense**, not *licence*. Compare ADOLESCENCE.

**li'chen** (a flowerless rock-plant), distinguish from **lik'en** (to represent as similar).

**lick'er** (one who licks), distinguish from **liq'uor** (intoxicating beverage).

**lic'o-rice** (the root of a herb or its sweet juice used in medicine), distinguish from **lick'er-ish** (appetizing; tempting; dainty).

**lie** (an untruth) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in the past participle **lied**, but changes form entirely in the present participle **ly'ing**, NOT *lieing*. Distinguish from **lye** (an alkaline solution).

**lief.** Distinguish from LEAF.

**lien.** Distinguish from LEAN.

**li'er.** Distinguish from LIAR and LYRE.

**lieu** (in place or instead), distinguish from **loo** (a game).

**lieve** (willingly), distinguish from **leave** (permission).

**light'en-ing** (1. The adding of light to. 2. The relieving of weight), distinguish from **light'ning** (a flash of light due to atmospheric electricity).

**lik'a-ble, like'a-ble.** Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**limb** (an arm or leg), the *b* is silent. See B. Distinguish from **limn** (to draw or paint).

**lim'ber**, not *limbre*. Compare TIMBER, TIMBRE.

**li'mou'sine**, not *limouzene*; a French word derived from *Limousin*, a former central province of France.

**limph.** Misspelling of LYMPH.

**lin'coln.** Note that in this name the second *l* is silent.

**lin'e-a-ment** (a feature or distinguishing mark or outline), distinguish from **lin'i-ment** (a medicament for external application). See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

**lin'ge-rie.** A word adopted from the French, but pronounced as if spelt *lanjeree*.

**links** (1. The parts of a chain. 2. A golf-course), distinguish from **lynx** (a cat-like wild beast).

**liq'ue-fy** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *-ed* in forming the past participle **liq'ue-fied**, but retains the final *y* in the present participle **liq'ue-fy'ing**.

**li-queur'** (a cordial), distinguish from **liq'uor** (an intoxicating beverage), and from **lick'er** (one who licks).

**liq'uo-rice**. Alternative form of **LICORICE**.

**lis'ten**. Note that in this word and its derivatives the *t* is silent.

**li'ter**, **li'tre**. Both forms are in good use. Distinguish **li'ter** (a measure) from **lit'ter** (a number of animals at one birth).

**lit'er-a-ry**, not *litrary*.

**lit'e-ra'ti**. Compare with **lit'ter-a-teur'** and note how many *t*'s each word has. The first word is derived from the Latin *litteratus* and is the plural which denotes "men of letters"; the second is French and denotes "one who is engaged in literature."

**live** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lived**, **liv'ing**.

**live'ly** changes the *y* to *i* in its derivatives **live'li-er**, **live'li-est**, **live'li-hood**, **live'li-ly**, **live'li-ness**.

**liv'er** (one of the internal organs), distinguish from **li'vre** (an old French money of account).

**lla'ma** (a South-American quadruped with woolly coat). Note the two *l*'s.

**lla'no** (a treeless plain in South America). Note the two *l*'s.  
**load** (burden; weight), distinguish from **lowed** (past tense of **low**, as cattle).

**loaf**, in forming the plural change *f* to *ves*, **loaves**.

**loan** (to lend; also, something lent), distinguish from **lone** (single; solitary).

**loath** (reluctant; unwilling), distinguish from **loathe** (to detest; dislike).

**loathe** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loathed**, **loath'ing**, and also before *-er*, *-ful*, *-ly*, *-ness* and *-some*—**loath'er**, **loath'ful**, **loath'ly**, **loath'ness**, **loath'some**.

**lob** doubles the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lobbed**, **lob'bing**.

**lobby** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **lob'bied**, and before *-es* in forming the noun plural, **lob'bies**.

**lo'cal** (pertaining to some place), distinguish from **lo'cale'** (a locality with reference to its surroundings).

**lo'cal-ize**, not *localise*.

**loch** (a lake), distinguish from **lock** (a fastening device for a door).

**lode** (a metal-bearing vein), distinguish from **load** (a burden).

**lode'star**", not *loadstar*.

**lode'stone**", not *loadstone*.

**lodge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lodged**, **lodg'ing**, and in the noun, **lodg'ment**.

**log** doubles the *g* informing the participles **logged**, **log'ging**, and the noun **log'ger**.

**log'gia**, not *loja* as it is pronounced.

**lone**. Distinguish from **LOAN**.

**lone'ly**. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **lone'li-er**, **lone'li-est**.

**lon-gev'i-ty**, not *lonjevity* as it is pronounced.

**loo**. Distinguish from **LIEU**.

**look** (to see), distinguish from **Luke** (a man's name).

**loon** (a stupid person or a scamp or rogue), distinguish from **lune** (a geometrical figure; also, the moon).

**loose** (free as from container or restraint), distinguish from **lose** (mislay). See **LOSE**.

**loose** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loosed**, **loos'ing**, but retains it before *-ly* and *-ness*, as **loose'ly**, **loose'ness**.

**lop** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lopped**, **lop'ping**.

**lord** (title of veneration, respect and nobility), distinguish from **laud** (praise highly, as in prayer).

**lore** (learning), distinguish from **low'er** (1. To bring down. 2. To scowl).

**lor'gnette'**, not *lorniette*.

**lorn** (forlorn; forsaken), distinguish from **lawn** (fine linen; also, a cultivated grass plot in a garden or park).

**lose**. Distinguish from **LOOSE**. Note that the past tense of *lose* is **lost** and the present, **los'ing**.

**loud** (noisy), distinguish from **lowed** (bellowed, as cattle).

**louse** forms its plural irregularly, **lice**. See **IRREGULAR PLURALS**, p. 13.

**lou'ver** (a window, as in a belfry tower), distinguish from **Lou'vre** (an ancient palace, now a museum of science and art, in Paris, France).



**love** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **lov'a-ble**.

**love** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **loved**, **lov'ing**, but *retains* the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **love'ly** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in **love'li-er**, **love'li-est**.

**lowed**. Distinguish from **LOAD**.

**low'er** (to bring down), spelt the same way as **low'er** (to look angry; scowl) are pronounced differently, the first riming with *mower* (one who mows), the second with *flower* (a blossom).

**low'er** (1. A scowl. 2. A lesser height), distinguish from **lore** (learning).

**loy'al-ty**, not *loyalty*.

**lu'bri-ca"tor**, not *lubricater*.

**Luke**. Distinguish from **LOOK**.

**lu'mi-na-ry**, not *luminery*.

**Lu'na** (the goddess of the moon), distinguish from **lu'nar** (pertaining to the moon).

**lunch**, not *lunsh* as it is pronounced. See **CH**.

**lunch'eon**. Note that the *e* is silent and that *ch* is pronounced as *sh* in the spoken word: not *lunshon*.

**lu-nette**, not *lunet*.

**lunge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lunged**, **lung'ing**.

**lure** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **lured**, **lur'ing**.

**lus'ter**, **lus'tre**. Both forms are in good use.

**lux'u-ry** changes *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **lux'u-ries**.

**lye** (an alkaline solution), distinguish from **lie** (an untruth).

**ly'ing**, not *lieing*.

**lymph**, not *lymf* or *limph*. See **PH**.

**lym-phat'ic**, not *lymfatic* or *limphatic*.

**lynx** (a feline wild beast), distinguish from **links** (the parts of a chain; a course used in golf).

**Ly"ons'**, a French city sometimes pronounced as spelt in French, **Ly"on'**, *lee"on'*.

**lyre** (a musical instrument), distinguish from **li'ar** (one who tells untruths).

## M

- m.** This letter is silent before *n* in words derived from the Greek, as in *mnemonic*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.
- ma** (mama), distinguish from **mar** (to spoil).
- mac'a-ro'ni** is preferred to **mac"ca-ro'ni** which is the Italian form.
- Ma-cau'lay**, **MacAulay**, **Ma-cau'ley** are family names. The first is that of the English essayist and historian, Thomas Babington *Macaulay*.
- mace** (1. A club-shaped staff of office. 2. A spice made from nut-meg), distinguish from **maize** (Indian corn or its grain).
- mac'er-ate**, not *maserate* as it is pronounced. See C.
- mach'i-na'tion**, not *makinaton* as it is pronounced.
- ma-chine'**, **ma-chin'ist**. Note that the *ch* in these words is pronounced as *sh*. See CH.
- mack'er-el**, not *mackrel*, as the word is one of three syllables all of which should be sounded in speech.
- mad'am** (English title of courtesy), distinguish from **ma'dame'** (French equivalent of **MADAM**). Compare **MESDAMES**.
- made** (produced), distinguish from **maid** (any unmarried woman; a domestic servant).
- Ma-dei'ra**, not *Madiera*—the *e* precedes the *i*.
- ma'de-moi-selle'**, not *madamosel*.
- Ma-don'na**, not *Madona*.
- Mag'na Car'ta** is preferred to **Mag'na Char'ta**.  
The name of the Great Charter of English liberty was originally written *Magna Carta* (see *Rolls of Parliament*, 1279, Act I, 224).
- mag'nate** (a person of importance), distinguish from **mag'net** (a body or implement that exerts magnetic force).
- mag'net-ize**, not *magnetise*. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mag'-net-ized**, **mag'net-iz'ing**, and before *-ation*, **mag'-net-i-za'tion**.
- mag'ni-fy** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed*, in forming the past participle **mag'ni-fied**, before *-able*, in forming the adjective **mag'ni-fi'a-ble**, and before *-er*, in forming the noun **mag'ni-fi'er**, but *retains* it in forming the present participle **mag'ni-fy'ing**.
- mahl'stick'** rather than **maul'stick'** which is an alternative spelling not often used.
- ma-hog'a-ny**, not *mahogany*.

**Ma-hom'e-dan, Ma-hom'e-tan.** See under **MOHAM-MEDAN**.

**maid.** Distinguish from **MADE**.

**mai'gre** (pertaining to fasting and to food that may be eaten during fasts), distinguish from **mea'ger** (deficient, scanty, thin).

**mail** (1. Arms. 2. Matter as, letters conveyed by post), distinguish from **male** (masculine).

**main** (1. The ocean. 2. Chief, principal), distinguish from **mane** (long hair on the neck of some animals, as the horse or lion).

**main'prise, main'prize.** Both forms are in use in law.

**main'te-nance,** not *maintainance*.

**maize** (Indian corn, or its grain), distinguish from **maze** (labyrinth).

**male.** Distinguish from **MAIL**.

**mal-fea'sance,** not *malfeasance* (obsolete) or *malfeasance* which is the French form.

**ma-lign',** not *maline* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *malignus*.

**ma-lign'er** (one who speaks evil or falsely), distinguish from **malin'ger** (to pretend sickness). A **ma-lin'gerer** is one who pretends sickness.

**mall** (a wooden hammer), distinguish from **maul** (beat; bruise).

**mal'le-a-ble,** not *mallable*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**ma-ma', mam-ma'** (mother). Both forms are in good use. Distinguish from **mam'ma** (a breast; udder).

**mam'mal,** not *mamal*.

**man** (*v.*) doubles the *n* in forming the participles **manned, man'ning**. See **SPELLING**, p. 4.

**man** changes to **men** in the plural. See **IRREGULAR PLURALS**, p. 13.

**man'age** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **managed, man'ag-ing**. but retains it before *-able* in the adjective **man'age-a-ble**, the noun **man'age-a-ble-ness**, the adverb **man'age-a-bly**, and the noun **man'age-ment**.

**man'ci-ple,** not *mancipal*.

**man-da'mus,** not *mandemus*.

**man'da-ta-ry** (an agent), distinguish from **man'da-to-ry** (containing or expressing a command).

**man'do-lin** or **man'do-line**. Both forms are in good use, but the first is preferred.

**man'drel** (a shaft or spindle), distinguish from **man'drill** (a baboon).

**mane**. Distinguish from **main**.

**ma-neu'ver**, **ma-nœu'vre**. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**man'ful** doubles the *l* before *-ly*, **man'ful-ly**.

**man'gel-wur"zel**, not *mangle-wortzel*.

**man'gy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative degrees, **man'gi-er**, **man'gi-est**.

**ma'ni-ac**, not *maniack*.

**man'i-kin**, not *mannekin*. The French form is *man"ne-quin'*.

**Ma-nil'a**, not *Manilla*.

**ma-nip'u-late** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ma-nip'u-lat"ed**, **ma-nip'u-lat"ing**.

**ma-nip'u-la"tor**, not *manipulator*.

**man'na** (the food of the Israelites in the wilderness), distinguish from **man'ner** (method; also, behavior), and from **man'or** (an estate or tract of land).

**man'ni-kin**. Alternative form or **MANIKIN**.

**ma-nœu'vre**. See **MANEUVER**.

**man'tel** (shelf over a fireplace), distinguish from **man'tle** (a sleeveless cloak). But in architecture *manile* is used for the shelf above a fireplace.

**man"u-fac'to-ry**, not *manufactory*.

**map** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mapped**, **map'ping**.

**man"u-mit'** doubles the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **man"u-mit'ted**, **man"u-mit'ting**.

**man"u-mis'sion**, not *manumission*.

**mar** (to spoil), distinguish from **ma** (mama).

**mar'a-bou** (an African stork whose feathers are used for trimming hats, etc.), distinguish from **mar'a-bout** (a North-African Mohammedan hermit or religious devotee).

**mar'ble** (a variety of stone), distinguish from **mar'vel** (to wonder).

**mar'ble** retains the *e* before *-ize* in forming the verb **mar'ble-ize**.

**mar-cel'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **mar-celled'**, **mar-cel-ling'**.

**mare** (a female horse), distinguish from **may'or** (a chief magistrate).

- mar**<sup>"</sup>**i-o-nette'**, not **mar**<sup>"</sup>**i-on-nette'** which is the French form.
- mark** (1. A written or other sign, as a dot, line, spot. 2. A German coin), distinguish from **marque** (a license of reprisal on an enemy at sea).
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**riage**, not *marridge* as it is pronounced. This word *retains* the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **mar**<sup>"</sup>**riage-a-ble**.
- marque**. Distinguish from **MARK**.
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**ry** *drops* the *y* and takes *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mar**<sup>"</sup>**ried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **mar**<sup>"</sup>**ry-ing**.
- Mar**<sup>"</sup>**seil-laise'** (the French National hymn), not *Mar-sellaize*.
- mar-seilles'** (a heavy cotton fabric), distinguish from **Mar-seille'** (a French southern seaport).
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**shal**. The participles of this verb are written **mar**<sup>"</sup>**-shaled** or **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'shalled**, **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'shal-ing** or **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'shal-ling**.
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**'shal** (an officer), distinguish from **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'tial** (warlike).
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**'ten** (a weasel-like animal), distinguish from **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'tin** (a bird of the swallow variety).
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**'tial** (warlike), distinguish from **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'shal** (a military officer of high rank).
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**'tin**. Distinguish from **MARTEN**.
- mar**<sup>"</sup>**'vel**. The participles of this verb are written **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'veled** or **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'velled**, **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'vel-ing** or **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'vel-ling**. The adjective is written **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'vel-ous** or **mar**<sup>"</sup>**'vel-lous**.
- mas**<sup>"</sup>**'cu-line** *drops* the *e* before *-ity*, **mas**<sup>"</sup>**'cu-lin'i-ty**. Compare **SPONTANEOUS**.
- mask**, **masque**; **mask**<sup>"</sup>**'er**, **mas**<sup>"</sup>**'quer**. Both forms of these words are in use. See **MASQUERADE**.
- mas**<sup>"</sup>**'ki-nonge** (a large pike-like fish of North America) is preferred to **mas**<sup>"</sup>**'ca-longe**.
- mas**<sup>"</sup>**'que-rade'**, not *maskerade*.
- Mas**<sup>"</sup>**'sa-chu'setts**, not *Masachusetts*.
- massed** (grouped, as troops), distinguish from **mast** (an upright spar in a ship).
- Mas**<sup>"</sup>**'sil-lon**, Ohio, not *Masilon*.
- mas**<sup>"</sup>**'ti-cate** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mas**<sup>"</sup>**'ti-cat'ed**, **mas**<sup>"</sup>**'ti-cat'ing**.
- mast**. Distinguish from **MASSED**.
- mat** *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mat**<sup>"</sup>**'ted**, **mat**<sup>"</sup>**'ting**.

**Mat'a-wan** (a borough in the State of New Jersey), distinguish from **Mat'te-a-wan** (a village in the State of New York).

**mate**, in the sense of "joined" is spelt the same way as **mate**, in the sense of "checked," as in *check-mate*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mat'ed**, **mat'ing**.

**mate** (a companion), distinguish from **ma'té** (a vessel in which a Brazilian beverage of this name is infused).

**ma-te'ri-al** (that of which anything is composed or constructed), distinguish from **ma"té"ri"el'** (a French word meaning "material," as distinguished from *personnel*).

**mat'in** (in the morning), distinguish from **mat'ting** (a floor covering).

**mat'i-née'**, not *matinay* as it is pronounced in New York.

**mat'rass** (a bottle used in chemical distillation), distinguish from **mat'tress** (a bed stuffed with hair, wool, etc.).

**ma'trix**, not *matricks*. In forming the plural the *x* is dropped and *ces* is added, **mat'ri-ces**. See PLURALS, p. 14, sec. 4.

**Mat'te-a-wan**. Distinguish from **MATAWAN**.

**mat'ting**. Distinguish from **MATIN**.

**mat'tress**. Distinguish from **MATRASS**.

**mat'u-rate** drops the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as in forming the participles **mat'u-rat'ed**, **mat'u-rat'ing** and the noun **mat"u-ra'tion**, and adjective **mat'u-ra"tive**.

**maul**. Distinguish from **MALL**.

**ma-xi'xe**. A Brazilian dance, pronounced *masheesha*.

**may"on-naise'**, not *mayonaise*.

**may'or** (a chief magistrate), distinguish from **mare** (the female of the horse).

**maze** (labyrinth), distinguish from **maize** (corn).

**mead** (a liquor; also, a meadow), distinguish from **Mede** (a native of Media), and from **meed** (reward).

**mea'ger** (scanty; inadequate), distinguish from **mai'gre** (food that may be eaten during church-fasts). **mea'-gre** is an alternative form of the first used in Great Britain.

**mean** (shabby; low; base; petty), distinguish from **mien** (manner; bearing).

- mean.** The past participle and imperfect tense of this verb is **meant**; the present participle **mean'ing**.
- meant**, not *ment*.
- mea'sur-a-ble**, not *measureable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.
- meat'** (animal flesh), distinguish from **meet'** (to join, proper), **mete'** (to measure).
- med'al** (a metal disk commemorating some event or some deed, as of bravery), distinguish from **med'dle** (to interfere).
- me-dal'ion**, not *medalion*.
- med'dle** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **med'dled**, **med'dling**, but *retains* it before *-some* in forming the adjective **med'dle-some**.
- med'dler** (one who interferes), distinguish from **med'lar** (a European tree or its fruit).
- Mede.** Distinguish from MEAD and MEED.
- Me-de'a** (a woman in Greek mythology), distinguish from **Me'di-a** (a region of N. W. Persia).
- me'di-æ'val**, **me'di-e'val**. Both forms are in use, but the first is more frequent in Great Britain and the second in the United States.
- med'i-cine**, not *medecine*.
- Med'i-ter-ra'ne-an**, not *Mediterranean*.
- med'lar**. Distinguish from MEDDLER.
- meed**. Distinguish from MEAD and MEDE.
- meet**. Distinguish from METE and MEAT.
- meg'ohm** (a million *ohms*: a term in electrometry), not *megome* as it is pronounced.
- mel'an-chol-y**, not *melancoly*. The *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.
- mê'lée'**. A French word pronounced as if spelt *maylay*.
- mel'o-dy** drops the *y* for *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **mel'o-dies**.
- melt**. The past participle of this verb is **melt'ed** or **molt'en**.
- mem'o-ran'dum** forms its plural by adding *s*, or by dropping *um* and adding *a*, **mem'o-ran'da**. Careless speakers erroneously use *memoranda* as a singular.
- me-mo'ri-al-ize**, not *memorealize*.
- mem'o-ry** changes *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural, **mem'o-ries**.
- men'ace** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **men'aced**, **men'ac-ing**.
- me-nag'er-ie**, not *menagery*.

- men-da'cious**, not *mendaceous*.  
**men-ha'den**, not *menhayden*.  
**me'ni-al**, not *meneal*.  
**men'in-gi'tis**, not *meningitis* but the *g* is soft. See *G*.  
**men'u**, not *menyu* or *meenu*.  
**Meph'is-toph'e-les**, not *Mefistofeles*.  
**mer'ce-na-ry**, not *mercenary*. This word changes *y* to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural **mer'ce-na-ries**.  
**mer'cer-ize**, not *mercercise*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mer'cer-ized**, **mer'cer-iz'ing**.  
**mer'chan-dise** (*n.* & *v.*), not *merchandize*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mer'chan-dised**, **mer'chan-dis'ing**.  
**mer'chant-a-ble**, not *merchantible*. See SUFFIXES, p. 5.  
**mer'cy**, final *y* is changed to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural, **mer'cies**, and *y* changes to *i* before a suffix beginning with a consonant; as, **mer'ci-ful**, **mer'ci-less**.  
**mer'ge** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **merged**, **merg'ing**.  
**me-ri'no**, not *marino*; in the plural **me-ri'nos**, not *mérinoes*.  
**mer'it** does not double the *t* in forming the participles **mer'it-ed**, **mer'it-ing**.  
**mer'ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **mer'ri-er** and the superlative **mer'ri-est**.  
**mesne**, pronounced as if written *mean*.  
**mes'sage** (an errand), distinguish from **mess'age** (a dwelling with its adjacent buildings).  
**met'al** (iron, gold, silver, tin, etc.), distinguish from **met'tle** (spirit, courage).  
**met'a-mor'pho-sis**, changes *-is* for *-es* in forming the plural **met'a-mor'pho-ses**.  
**met'a-phor**, not *metafor*.  
**mete** (to measure), distinguish from **meet** (1. To join. 2. Fit, proper), and **meat** (animal flesh).  
**me'te-or** is a word of three syllables sometimes mispronounced as if it were written *meet'yer*.  
**me'ter**, **me'tre**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.  
**meth'od-i-za'tion**, **meth'od-i-sa'tion**, **meth'od-ize**, **meth'od-ise**, **meth'od-iz'er**, **meth'od-is-er**. All forms are in use but the first of each group is preferred. The other derivatives of **meth'od** take *s*; as, **Meth'od-ist**, **Meth'od-ism**.



**me-ton'y-my**, not *metonimy*.

**me-trop'o-lis**, not *metropalis*.

**met'ro-pol'i-tan**, not *metrapolitan*.

**met'tle**. Distinguish from **METAL**.

**mew** (an enclosure or stable), distinguish from **mue** (to molt).

**mewl** (to cry like an infant), distinguish from **mule** (a beast of burden).

**mews** (enclosures, stables), distinguish from **muse** (to ponder).

**mez'za-nine**, not *mezanine*.

**mez'zo**, not *medzo* as it is pronounced.

**mcz'zo-tint**, not *mezotint*.

**mice**. Plural of **MOUSE**.

**Mi'chael**. In this word *ch* is pronounced as *k* (see **CH**), and the *a* is silent. So also in **Mich'ael-mas**.

**Mi'chel-an'ge-lo**, not *Michaelangelo*.

**mi'crohm**, not *microme*. See **OHM**.

**mi-crom'e-ter**, not *micrometer*.

**mien** (manner, bearing), distinguish from **mean** (shabby, squalid; low).

**might** (strength), distinguish from **mite** (a small insect, a very small coin).

**might'y** (powerful), *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **might'i-er**, **might'i-est**. Distinguish from **mit'y** (full of mites).

**mi'gnon-ette'**, not *minionette*.

**mi'grate**, not *migreat*.

**mile** *retains* final *e* before *-age* in **mile'age**.

**Mil-lais'** (English artist), distinguish from **Mil'let'** (French artist), and **Mil'let** (American war-correspondent and artist).

**mil'le-na-ry** (a thousand years), distinguish from **mil'li-ner-y** (women's hats and bonnets).

**mil'lion-aire'**, not *millionare*.

**mim'e-o-graph**, not *mimiograph*.

**mince** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **minced**, **minc'ing**.

**mind** (I. *n.* The understanding. II. *v.* To pay attention to), distinguish from **mined** (*a.* Dug out of the earth; also, prepared for blowing up).

**mi'ner** (a worker in mines), distinguish from **mi'nor** (one under age).

**min'i-a-ture**, not *minature*.

**min'i-mize**, not *minimize*.

**min'is-ter** (an agent or preacher), distinguish from **min'-ster** (a monastery, church, or cathedral).

**mi'nor**. Distinguish from **MINER**.

**minute**, not *mini*. There are three words spelt in this way: an adjective pronounced *mi-nute'*, a noun pronounced *min'it*, and a verb pronounced the same way.

**mis'ce-ge-na'tion**, not *misigenation* as it is pronounced.

**mis'cel-la'ne-ous**, not *miscellaneous*.

**mis'chief**, not *mischef* or *mischeef*.

**mis'chie-vous**, not *mischevous*.

**mis'ci-ble** (such as can be mixed), not *misible*. Distinguish from **miss'a-ble** (capable of being missed).

**mis'de-mean'or**, **mis'de-mean'our**. Both forms are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain. See **RULES**, p. 11.

**mis-fea'sance**, not *misfeasence*. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**mis-fit**, doubles final *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mis-fit'ted**, **mis-fit'ting**.

**misible**. Misspelling of **MISCIBLE**.

**mis-lay'** drops the *y* and substitutes *-id* in forming the past participle **mis-laid'**, but retains it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mis-lay'ing**.

**mis-lead'**. The past participle of this verb is misleading as it is formed by dropping the *a* from the last syllable, **mis-led'**. The present participle is **mis-lead'ing**.

**miss'a-ble**. Distinguish from **MISCIBLE**. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**mis'sal** (a mass-book), distinguish from **mis'sile** (a weapon discharged or thrown, as a bullet, arrow, lance, spear, etc.).

**missed** (past tense of **MISS**, *v.*), distinguish from **mist** (vapor, fine rain).

**mis'sel** (a thrush), distinguish from **mis'sal** (a mass-book). See **MISSAL**.

**Mis'sis-sip'pi**. Note that this word has four *s*'s and two *p*'s.

**mis-take'** forms the past participle by adding *n* to the root word **mis-tak'en**. Before *-ing* the final *e* is dropped in forming the present participle **mis-tak'ing**. In the imperfect tense the form of the verb changes, **mis-took'**. See **TAKE**.

**mis'tle-toe**, not *misselttoe* as it is pronounced. Note that the medial *t* is silent.

- mite** (a small insect; also, a very small thing, as a coin), distinguish from **might** (power).
- mi'ter, mi'tre.** Both forms are in use, but the second is generally preferred.
- mne-mon'ics** (the science of memorizing). Note that the word is pronounced *nemonics*, the initial *m* being silent. See *M*.
- Mne-mos'y-ne.** The initial *m* is silent in this the name of the Mother of the Muses and the Goddess of Memory.
- moan** (to lament), distinguish from **mown** (cut down).
- moat** (a ditch), distinguish from **mote** (a small particle).
- mob** *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mobbed, mob'bing** and before *-er* and *-ish* in forming the noun **mob'ber** and the adjective **mob'bish**.
- mode** (a fashion), distinguish from **mow'ed** (cut down, as grass).
- mod'el.** The participles of this verb are written **mod'eled** or **mod'elled, mod'el-ing** or **mod'el-ling**. The noun also has the two forms **mod'el-er** or **mod'el-ler**.
- mod'ern**, not *modren*.
- mod'i-fy** *changes* the *y* to *i* and *-ed* is added to form the past participle **mod'i-fied**, and also before *-er* in forming the noun **mod'i-fi'er**, but *retains* the final *y* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mod'i-fy'ing**.
- Mo-ham'med** is preferred to **Ma-hom'et**. See **MOHAMMEDAN**.
- Mo-ham'me-dan**, not *Mohamedan*; **Mahomedan** and **Mahometan** are forms occasionally used, but the first prevails.
- moi'e-ty** *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **moi'e-ties**.
- moire, moi'r  .** The first of these is a noun; the second, an adjective. Both words are from the French.
- mold, mould; mold'a-ble, mould'a-ble; mold'er, mould'er; mold'ing, mould'ing.** Both forms of each word are in use but the first of each group is used in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.
- mol'e-cule**, not *molicule*.
- mol'li-fy** *changes* the *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mol'li-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mol'li-fy'ing**.
- molt, moult.** Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**mol'ten**, not *moulten*.

**mo-men'tum** changes the *um* to *a* in forming the plural, **mo-men'ta**. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 14.

**mon'arch**. Note that the *a* is obscure in speech and that *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH.

**mon'as-ter-y**, not *monastery*.

**mon'ey**. The plural of this word may be formed by adding *s* or by dropping the *ey* and adding *ies*: **moneys**, **mon'ies**.

**mon'eyed**, not *monied*.

**mon'goos**, not *mongoose*, but the plural is formed by adding *es*: **mon'goos-es**.

**mon'o-met'al-ism**, **mon'o-met'al-lism**; **mon'o-met'al-ist**, **mon'o-met'al-list**. Both forms are in use.

**mo-nop'o-ly** drops the *y* for *i* in the forming of its derivatives **mo-nop'o-lism**, **mo-nop'o-list**, **mo-nop'o-li-za'tion**, **mo-nop'o-lize** or **-lise**, **-liz'er** or **-lis'er**.

**mon-sieur'**. The plural of this word is **mes-sieurs'**.

**mon'strance**, not *mon'strence*.

**Mont-pe'li-er** (a city in Vermont), distinguish from **Mont'pel'lier'** (a city in France).

**moor** (a tract of land), distinguish from **Moor** (a native of Morocco), and **more** (greater in amount).

**mop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **mopped**, **mop'ping**. See RULES, p. 4.

**mor'al** (not corruptible), distinguish from **mo-rale'** (mental condition as regards bearing courage, confidence and zeal).

**mor"a-to'ri-um**, not *moritorium*. In the plural **mor"a-to'ri-a** or **mor"a-to'ri-ums**.

**more** (a greater amount), distinguish from **mow'er** (one who mows). Compare **moor**.

**mo-reen'**, not *moireen*.

**morn** (the early part of the day), distinguish from **mourn** (to lament). Note also that the difference between **morn'ing** and **mourn'ing** is the *u* in the latter.

**mor'phin**, **mor-phine**. Both forms are in use, but the first is favored by scientists.

**mor'rice**, **mor'ris**. Both forms are used, but the latter is preferred.

**mor'tar**, not *morter*.

**mort'gage**. Note that the *t* is silent (see T) and that the word retains the *e* in forming the adjective **mort'gage-a-ble**. See RULES, p. 5.

**mort'gage** drops the *e* before *-ed*, *-ing*, and *-or* in forming the participles **mort'gaged**, **mort-gag'ing**.

**mort'ga-gor**, **mort'ga-geor**, **mort'ga-ger**. The three forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**mor'tise** is spelt also **mor'tice**, but the first is preferred on both sides of the Atlantic.

**mort'main**", not *mortmane*.

**mosque** is preferred to **mosk**.

**mos-qui'to** adds *es* to form the plural **mos-qui'toes**.

**mote** (a small particle), distinguish from **moat** (a ditch).

**mo"tif'** (the feature of a literary or an artistic work), distinguish from **mo'tive** (moving cause; inducement).

**mot'to** forms the plural by adding *es*, **mot'toes**.

**mould**. See **MOLD**.

**moun'tain** (a lofty, rocky elevation), distinguish from **mount'ing** (rising).

**moun'te-bank**, not *mountibank*.

**mourn**. Distinguish from **MORN**.

**mouse** changes its form in the plural to **mice**. See **IRREGULAR PLURALS**, p. 13.

**mous-tache'**. See **MUSTACHE**.

**mov'a-ble**, **move'a-ble**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**move** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **moved**, **mov'ing**, but retains it before *-ment* in forming the noun **move'ment**.

**mow**. This trigraph is pronounced to rime with "cow," when it indicates a place where hay is kept (**hay-mow**), and with "go", when it indicates cutting down, as of grass.

**mow'ed** (cut down), distinguish from **mode** (fashion).

**mow'er**. Distinguish from **MORE**.

**mown**. Distinguish from **MOAN**.

**mu'cous** (slimy), distinguish from **mu'cus** (viscid fluid).

**mug'gy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **mug'gi-er**, **mug'gi-est**.

**mule** (a beast of burden), distinguish from **mewl** (to cry like an infant).

**mul'ti-ply** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-er*, as in the past participle **mul'ti-plied** and the noun **mul'ti-pli'er**, but retains the *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **mul'ti-ply'ing**.

**mum** doubles the final *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **mummed**, **mum'ming**.

**mum'mi-fy** drops the *y* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mum'mi-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mum'mi-fy"ing**.

**mum'my** drops the *y* for *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **mum'mies**.

**mu-nic'i-pal**, not *municiple*.

**mus'cat** (a sweet grape), distinguish from **musk'cat"** (a cat-like animal), and **mus'ket** (a small gun).

**mus'cle** (brawn, strength), distinguish from **mus'sel** (a shell-fish).

**muse** (to think over, ponder), distinguish from **Muse** (a goddess of art, poetry, etc.), and **mews** (stables).

**mus'lin** (a fine cotton fabric), distinguish from **muz'zling** (the act of putting a guard over the mouth).

**mus'sel**. Distinguish from **MUS'CLE**.

**mus-tache'** is preferred to **mous-tache'** which is an alternative form.

**must'y** drops the *y* for *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **must'i-er** and the superlative **must'-i-est**.

**mu'ti-ny** drops the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **mu'ti-nies** and before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mu'ti-nied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mu'ti-ny-ing**.

**mu'tu-al** (common; joint), distinguish from **mu'tule** (a term in architecture).

**muz'zle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **muz'zled**, **muz'zling**.

**muz'zling** (the act of putting a guard over the mouth), distinguish from **mus'lin** (fine cotton fabric).

**myrrh**, not *mur* as it is pronounced. Note that the digraph *rh* is silent. See **R**.

**mys'ter-y** changes the final *y* to *i*, and adds *-es* to form the plural, **mys'ter-ies**, and *-ous* in forming the adjective, **mys-te'ri-ous**.

**mys'ti-fy** changes the *y* before *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **mys'ti-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **mys'ti-fy"ing**.

## N

- n.** This letter is represented in common spelling by: (1) *n, nn*, as in *no, honor, on, banner*, etc. (2) Unaccented *en* as in *heaven* (hev'n); *on* as in *lesson* (les'n), etc. (3) *n* as in *ink* is merely a variation of *ng* before *c, g, k, q*. (4) *n* in French words which indicates that the preceding vowel usually has a nasal sound.

Final *n* is sometimes silent, as in *condemn, contemn, autumn, column, hymn, and limn*.

- na'celle'**. A word derived from the French used to designate the basket of a balloon or the framework of a dirigible airship. The word is pronounced as if spelt *nah-sel'*.

- nag** (a small horse), distinguish from **knag** (a knot or knob in wood) in which the *k* is silent. See **K**.

- nag** (*v.*) doubles the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nagged**, **nag'ging** and in forming the adjective **nag'gy**.

- na-ive'** (ingenuous, candid), distinguish from **knave** (a rascal, rogue), and **nave** (the main part of a church or the hub of a wheel).

- na'ive"té'**, not *naivety*.

- nam'a-ble, name'a-ble**. Both forms are used.

- name** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **named**, **naming**, but retains it before a suffix beginning with a consonant as in **name'less, name'ly, name'sake**.

- nap** (1. A short sleep. 2. The fiber of flannel or silk), distinguish from **knap** (to break short; snap), and **nape** (the back of the neck).

- nap** (*v.*) doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **napped**, **nap'ping**, and before *-py* in the adjective **nap'py**.

- na'pe-ry** (household linen), not *nappery*.

- naph'tha**, not *naptha*, a common misspelling, or *naftha* as the word is pronounced. See **PH**.

- narl, narled**. Misspellings of **GNARL, GNARLED**.

- nar-rate'** drops the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **nar-ra'tion, nar-rat'ed, nar-rat'ing, nar'ra-tive, nar-ra'tor**, etc.

- nas'cent**, not *nasent* as it is pronounced.

- nash, nat, naw, neiss, nome, nu**. Misspellings of **GNASH, GNAT, GNAW, GNEISS, GNOME, GNU**, which see.

**nas-tur'tium**, not *nasturshum* as it is pronounced. The plural of this word is formed by adding *s*.

**nas'ty** forms its comparative and superlative by changing *y* for *i* before *-er* and *-est*, **nas'ti-er**, **nas'ti-est**, and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **nas'ti-ly**, **nas'ti-ness**.

**na'tion-al-ize**, not *nationalise*. See *-IZE*, *-ISE*, p. 9.

**nat'u-ral-ize**, not *naturalise*. See *-IZE*, *-ISE*, p. 9.

**naught** (nothing), distinguish from **note** (a memorandum or short letter). The digraph *gh* is silent.

**na'val** (pertaining to ships and the navy), distinguish from **na'vel** (the abdominal depression).

**nave**. Distinguish from **KNAVE** and from **NAIVE**.

**nav'i-ga-ble**, not *navigatable*. See *SUFFIXES*, p. 8.

**nav'vy** (a laborer), distinguish from **na'vy** (a marine military force and its ships and equipment).

**nay** (a negative), distinguish from **neigh** (the whinny or cry of a horse).

**neal** (to anneal), distinguish from **kneel** (to rest on bended knees).

**neap** (tide), not *neep*.

**neb** (the bill of a bird), distinguish from **nib** (a pen-point).

**nec'es-sa'ri-an**, not *necessarean*.

**nec'es-sa-ry** changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **nec'es-sa-ries**, and changes the *y* to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **nec'es-sa"ri-ly**, **nec'es-sa"ri-ness**.

**ne-ces'si-tate** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ne-ces'si-tat'ed**, **ne-ces'si-tat'ing**.

**née** (born: a French word), distinguish from **nay** (no) and **neigh** (the whinny of a horse).

**need** (want, poverty), distinguish from **knead** (to mix as dough; to work up or operate on).

**need'y**. A word that custom does not permit one to divide in writing or printing. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **need'i-er**, **need'i-est**.

**neg'li'gée'**. A French word that means, "not in formal or receiving attire." Note the accent on the second *é*, and never write it *negligé*.

**neg'li-gi-ble**, not *negligeable*.

**ne-go'ti-a-ble**, not *negociable*.

**ne-go'ti-ate**, not *negociate*. The final *e* is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel.



- ne'gro** forms the plural by adding *-es*, never *-s*. The word is Spanish and means "black," and when used in the United States to designate an Afro-American it is sometimes written **Negro**.
- neigh** (the whinny or cry of a horse), distinguish from **nay** (negative). See **NAY**, **NÉE**.
- neigh'bor**, not *naybor* as it is pronounced. See **EIGH**.
- nei'ther** (not either), distinguish from **neth'er** (lower). To the *ei* of the first word the sound of *i* is frequently given, but the spelling remains the same.
- neph'ew**, not *nefew* or *newew* as it is sometimes pronounced. See **PH**.
- ne-phri'tis**, not *nefritis*. See **PH**.
- nerve drops** the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **ner'val**, **ner-va'tion**, **nerved**, **nerv'ing**, **ner'vous**.
- nes'cience**, not *neshence* as it is pronounced. The word may be divided **nes-ci-ence** in printing or writing.
- nes'tle**, not *nestel* or *nesel* as it is pronounced, the *t* being silent as it is also in **nes'tled**, **nes'tling**.
- net**, **nett**. The first form is preferred in the United States, the second is common in Great Britain.
- neth'er**. Distinguish from **NEITHER**.
- neu'ter**, not *newter*, *nuter*, or *neutre*.
- neu'tral-ize**, **neu'tral-ise**. Both forms are in use, but the first is more frequent. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-able* and *-ation* in **neu'tra-liz'a-ble**, **neu'tral-i-za'tion**.
- neumatic**, **neumonia**, etc. Misspellings of **pneu-mat'ic**, **pneu-mo'ni-a**, etc.
- new** (modern; of late origin), distinguish from **gnu** (an African antelope), and **knew** (past tense of **KNOW**).
- new'el**, not *newell*.
- nib doubles** the *b* in forming the participles **nibbed**, **nib'bing**.
- nib'ble drops** the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **nib'bled**, **nib'bling**.
- niche**, not *nitch* as it is pronounced.
- nick'el**, not *nickle*.
- nick'eled**, not *nickelled*.
- nick'nack** is also spelt **knick-knack**.
- niece**, not *neice*. See pp. 7 and 8.
- Nietzsche**, pronounced as if spelt *neech'e*, the final *e* as "e" in "moment."

**nig'gard**, not *niggerd*.

**nig'ger**, not *niggar*.

**nigh**, pronounced as if spelt *nie*; the *gh* being silent. See **GH**.  
**night** (the end of day; darkness), distinguish from **knight** (a champion; also, a title of honor). In both words *gh* is silent. See **GH**.

**nil** (nothing), distinguish from **nill** (will not).

**nine drops** the *e* before *th* in **ninth** (*a.* & *n.*), and **ninth'ly** (*adv.*).

**nine'ty** changes *y* to *i* before *-eth* in forming **nine'ti-eth**, *a.* & *n.*

**nip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **nipped**, **nip'ping**, and the adjective **nip'py**.

**nit** (the egg on an insect), distinguish from **knit** (to weave).

**ni'ter**, **ni'tre**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**no** (negative), distinguish from **know** (to be acquainted with or aware of).

**No-bel'** (Swedish manufacturer, founder of Nobel prizes), distinguish from **no'ble** (aristocratic, magnificent).

**noc'turn** (a church service held at night), distinguish from **noc'turne** (a serenade).

**nod** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **nod'ded**, **nod'ding** and the noun **nod'der**.

**noes** (plural of **no**), distinguish from **knows** (has knowledge) and from **nose** (the organ of smell).

**nog'gin** (a wooden tub-like receptacle), distinguish from **nog'ging** (wooden or brick filling for walls).

**noise** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **noised**, **nois'ing**.

**noi'some** retains the *e* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **noi'some-ly**, **noi'some-ness**.

**nois'y** changes the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **nois'i-er**, **nois'i-est**; in the adverb **nois'i-ly**, and in the noun **nois'i-ness**.

**nome** (1. A term, in algebra. 2. The name of a province in Greece), distinguish from **gnome** (a goblin or sprite).

**no'men-cla'tor** (one who calls out or gives names to), distinguish from **no'men-cla'ture** (a system of names).

**nonce** (the present time), distinguish from **nones** (a canonical office).

**non'cha-lance'**, note that the *ch* is pronounced as *sh*.

**non'-com'bat-ant**, not *non-combatant*.

**none** (not any), distinguish from **nun** (a woman devoted to a religious life).

**nones.** Distinguish from **NONCE**.

**non-fea'sance**, not *nonfeesance*. See **EA**.

**non'pa-reil'**, not *nonparail* as it is pronounced.

**non'plus.** The participles of this verb are written **non'-plused** or **non'plussed**; **non'plus-ing** or **non'plus-ing**.

**noose** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **noosed**, **noos'ing**.

**nor** (neither), distinguish from **gnaw** (to eat little by little), and **Nore** (a sandbank at the mouth of the Thames, England).

**Nor'wich**, as the name of an English city the *w* is silent, but as the name of a city in Connecticut it is sounded.

**niose** (the organ of smell), distinguish from **knows** (has knowledge), and **noes** (plural of *no*).

**not** (negative; denial), distinguish from **knot** (1. A bow or other twisting, as of ribbon, twine, etc. 2. A nautical mile).

**no'tice** retains the *e* in the adjective **no'tice-a-ble** and the adverb **no'tice-a-bly**. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**nought.** A variant of **NAUGHT**, which see.

**nov'el-ty**, the *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **nov'el-ties**.

**noz'zle** (a spout as for a hose), distinguish from **nuz'zle** (to snuggle; nestle).

**nu'cle-us** (*sing.*) forms its plural by dropping **-us** and adding *i*, **nu'cle-i**.

**nui'sance**, not *niusance*—the *i* always follows the *u*.

**nul'li-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **nul'li-fied**, **nul'li-fy'ing**.

**numb.** Note that the *b* is silent. See **B** and **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2.<sup>1</sup>

**nu'mer-a-ry**, not *numerery*.

**nun** (a woman devoted to a religious life), distinguish from **none** (not any).

**nurse** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **nursed**, **nurs'ing**.

**nurse** drops the *e* in the noun **nurs'ling**.

**nut** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **nut'ted**, **nut'ting**.

**nuz'zle.** Distinguish from **NOZZLE**.

**nymph**, not *nymf* or *nymphe*.

## O

- o.** The sounds of *o* are indicated by the following words:  
 (1) *Obey*; (2) *go*; (3) *not*; (4) *nor*; (5) *atom*, *actor*; (6) *move*, *prove*; (7) *wolf*; (8) *come*; (9) *worst*; (10) *women*.  
 The letter is used also in the following associations:  
 (1) *oa* in *load*; (2) *oe* in *toe*; (3) *oe* in *shoe*; (4) *oe* in *does*; (5) *æ* in *Phœnix*; (6) *oi* in *oil*; (7) *oy* in *boy*; (8) *oo* in *good*; (9) *oo* in *blood*; (10) *oo* in *pool*; (11) *oo* in *floor*; (12) *ou* in *loud*; (13) *ou* in *pour*; (14) *ou* in *soup*; (15) *ou* in *rough*; (16) *ou* in *journey*; (17) *ow* in *now*; (18) *ow* in *flow*; (19) *eo* in *leopard*; (20) *eo* in *people*; and (21) *ao* in *gaol*. Note that *o* is silent in English in the following words: *gaol* (jail); *jeopard* (jepard); *leopard* (lepard); *people* (peepul); *rough* (ruff); *sojourn* (sojurn). See -*ou* and -*ous*.
- oa.** A digraph which in English spelling usually represents the sound of *o* in "go," as in *boat*, *coat*, *goat*, etc.; but sometimes the sound of *o* in "nor" as in *boar*, *hoar*, *roar*, etc. See **O**.
- oaf** forms its plural by adding *s*, not -*ves*.
- oak.** Note that this is a word of one syllable and that the *a* is silent.
- oar** (a bladed shaft used for rowing), distinguish from **o'er** (over), and from **ore** (unrefined metal).
- o'a-sis** forms its plural by changing *i* to *e*, **o'a-ses**.
- oat.** Note that this is a word of one syllable and that the *a* is silent.
- o-be'di-ent**, not *obediant*.
- o-bei'sance**, not *obeysance*.
- o-bese'**, not *obeese*.
- o-bey'** (to comply with or carry out), distinguish from **a-bey'** (to put in abeyance).
- o-bit'u-a-ry**, not *orbituary*.
- ob'li-gate** drops the *e* before -*ed* and -*ing* in forming the participles **ob'li-gat'ed**, **ob'li-gat'ing**.
- ob'li-gor'**, not *obliger* or *obligeor*.
- ob-lique'**, not *oblake* as it is sometimes pronounced.
- ob-scene'**, not *obseen*.
- ob-scure'** drops the *e* before -*ed* and -*ing* in forming the participles **ob-scured'**, **ob-scur'ing**.
- ob-se-qui-es** (funeral rites), distinguish from **ob-se'qui-ous** (deferential), not *obsequous*.
- ob-strep'er-ous**, not *obstreparous*.

- oc-cur' doubles the *r* informing the participles oc-curred', oc-cur'ring.
- oc-cur'rence, not *occurance* or *occurrence*.
- oc-cur'rent, not *occurrent*.
- o'cean. A spelling that can not be determined from the pronunciation—*oshan*. See *C*.
- o'cher, o'chre. Both forms are in use. See *CH*.
- O'Con'nell, not *O'Conel*, two *n*'s and two *l*'s.
- oc'tave, not *octive*.
- oc'to-pus, not *octapus*.
- oc'u-lar, not *oculer*.
- ode (a short poem), distinguish from owed (past tense of *owe*).
- o'dor, o'dour. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- oe. A diagraph having various sounds in English, as in (1) *doe*, *foe*; (2) *does* (*duz*); (3) *shoes*. See *O*.
- o'er (over), distinguish from oar (a bladed shaft used in rowing), and ore (unrefined metal).
- of (belonging to or concerning), distinguish from off (away from; at a distance).
- off'fal (refuse), distinguish from aw'ful (filled with awe; fearful).
- of-fence', of-fense'. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.
- oft'en (frequently), distinguish from or'phan (a parentless child).
- o-gee' (a molding with a long S curve). Note that the *g* is soft-sounded as *j*—in this and the next word. See *G*.
- o-give', not *ogyve*. See *GYVE* and *OGEE* above.
- o'gre, not *oger*.
- o'gre-ish is preferred to o'grish.
- oh (alas), distinguish from owe (to be in debt).
- ohm. Note that the *h* is silent in this word and all compound words of which it is an element.
- ohm'me'ter, not *ommeter*. See *OHM*.
- O. K., okeh. The first is the popular form; the second was revived by President Wilson. The first arose from a misreading of O. R., "Ordered Recorded"; the second is said to be a Choctaw word meaning, "it is so and in no other way."
- o'le-o-mar'ga-rine or o'le-o-mar'ga-rin, not *oleomargerine* as it is sometimes erroneously pronounced.
- ol'i-va-ry (like an olive), not *olivery*.

- o-mit'** before *-ed* and *-ing* doubles the *t* in forming the participles **o-mit'ted**, **o-mit'ting**.
- om-nis'cience**. Note the form of this word of which the *sc* is pronounced as *sh*—*omnishens*.
- one** (a unit or single thing), distinguish from **won** (earned by effort; gained).
- on'er-a-ry** (fit or intended for burdens), distinguish from **hon'or-a-ry** (conferring honor).
- on'ion**, not *unyen* as pronounced. See **O**.
- on'o-mat'o-poë'ia**, not *onomatopeia*.
- on'slaught**. Note that the *gh* is silent. See **GH**.
- on'stead**, not *onsted*. Note that the *a* is silent. See **A**.
- o-paque'**, not *opake*.
- op'er-ate** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **op'er-at'ed**, **op'er-at'ing**, and before *-able* in the adjective **op'er-at'a-ble**.
- op'er-a'tor**, not *operator*.
- oph-thal'mi-a**, pronounced as if written *ofthalmia*.
- op-pose'**, not *opose* or *oppose*. This word drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **op-posed'**, **op-pos'ing**, and before *-able* in forming the adjective **op-pos'a-ble**, not *opposeable*.
- op-pugn'**, not *oppune* as it is pronounced. The word is from the Latin *ob*, against, and *pugno*, fight; the *g* in the word is silent. See **G**.
- or-dain'**, not *ordane* or *ordeign*.
- or'de-al**, not *ordeel*.
- or'der** (method; system; command), distinguish from **or'dure** (filth).
- or'di-nance** (a municipal law), distinguish from **ord'-nance** (guns), and **or'don-nance** (the correct arrangement of parts).
- ore**. Distinguish from **OAR**.
- or'gan-dy** is preferred to **or'gan-die**, but forms its plural by changing *y* to *i* and adding *-es*.
- or'gan-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **or'gan-ized**, **or'gan-iz'ing**, and before *-able* in forming the adjective **or'gan-iz'a-ble**.
- or'na-ment**, not *orniment*.
- or'phan** (a parentless child), distinguish from **oft'en** (frequently).
- or-thog'ra-pher**, not *authographer*.
- or-thog'ra-phy**, not *authography*.
- os'cil-late**, not *osillate* as it is pronounced. See **sc**.

os'cil-la"tor, not *oscillater*.

os'se-ous, not *ossious*.

os'si-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle os'si-fied.

os-ten'si-ble, not *ostensable*. See SUFFIXES, p. 8.

os'tler. Variant of HOSTLER, the *t* is silent in both words.

os'tra-cism, not *ostracizm*. See OSTRACIZE.

os'tra-cize, not *ostracise*. The verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles os'tra-cized, os'tra-ciz"ing.

os'trich, not *austrich*.

Ot'to-man, not *Otterman*.

-ou. A digraph that occurs frequently in English. See O (12) to (16).

-ough. A common combination in English words pronounced variously as in *bough* (*bow*), *chough* (*chuf*), *cough* (*kof*), *dough* (*doe*), *fought* (*fou*), *hough* (*hock*), *lough* (*loch*), *rough* (*ruf*), *sough* (*sow*), etc. See GH.

ounce, the weight and the wildcat are spelt alike.

our (pertaining or belonging to us), distinguish from *hour* (sixty minutes). See H.

-ous. A suffix used in forming adjectives. See RULES FOR SPELLING, p. 11.

out'rage *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles out'raged, out'rag-ing, but *retains* it before *-ous* in forming the adjective out-ra'geous.

o'ver-ture, not *owerture*.

o'ver-whelm'. In Great Britain the *h* is not heard in colloquial speech.

owe *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles owed, ow'ing, NOT *oweing*.

owe (to be in debt), distinguish from *oh* (alas!). Note that the digraph *we* is silent.

owed (did owe), distinguish from *ode* (a short poem).

ox'id, ox'ide. Both forms are in use.

ox'i-di-za'tion, not ox'y-di-sa'tion, an alternative form seldom used.

ox'i-dize is preferred to ox'i-dise. An alternative form now seldom used is ox'y-dize. This verb *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles ox'i-dized; ox'i-diz"ing.

- ox'y-gen.** The original spelling of the term when suggested by Lavoisier in 1777 was *oxygine* which was modified to *oxygene* in 1785-6 and the form, *oxygene*, was first used in English in 1789.
- ox'y-rhyn'chous** (having a pointed beak or snout). A catch word used in spelling tests.
- o'zo-nize**, not *ozonise* or *ozonyze*.

## P

- p.** This letter when initial and before *n*, *s*, *sh*, and *t*, is silent, as in *pneumonia*, *psalm*, *pseudo-*, *pshaw*, *ptomain*. It is silent also in *corps* (a body of troops), *cupboard*, *raspberry*, *receipt*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3.
- pac'i-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pac'i-fied**, and before *-er* in forming the noun **pac'i-fi'er**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **pac'i-fy'ing**.
- packed** (put into a receptacle, as clothes pressed together, in a trunk), distinguish from **pact** (an agreement).
- pad** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **pad'ded**, **pad'ding**.
- pæ'an** is preferred to **pe'an**.
- pæ'o-ny**, **pe'o-ny**. Both forms are used, but the second is preferred.
- page** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **paged**, **pag'ing**, NOT *pageing*.
- pag'eant**, not *pagent* or *pajent* as it is pronounced.
- pag'i-na'tion**, not *pageination*.
- paid**, not *payed*.
- pai-deu'tics** (the theory or act of teaching boys), not *pæ-deu'tics*.
- pail** (a cylindrical vessel for liquids), distinguish from **pale** (white; also, a stake).
- pail'ful**, plural **pail'fuls**, not *pail'full* or *pails full* unless more than one pail is used and then always written as two words.
- pain** (an ache; suffering, as from a bruise, wound, or toothache), distinguish from **pane** (a piece of window-glass or a square or section in a checker pattern).
- pair** (two), distinguish from **pare** (cut off the skin of), from **pear** (a fruit), and from **pay'er** (one who pays).
- pa-ja'mas**, not *paijamas* or *pyjamas*. The word is from the Hindustani *paejama*, from the *paē*, leg, and *jama*, garment.



- pal'ace** (a royal residence), distinguish from **Pal'las** (the Greek goddess Athena).
- pa-læ'o-**. Classic form of **PALEO-**: used as a combining form in words derived from the Greek. In this book the simpler form *paleo*, now widely used, is preferred.
- pal'at-a-ble**, not *palateable* or *palatible*. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.
- pal'ate** (the roof of the mouth), distinguish from **pal'et** (a thin tablet for mixing colors), **pal'let** (a straw-bed or mattress), and **pal-lette'** (armor protecting the armpits).
- Pa-lat'i-nate** (a territory of Germany), distinguish from **Pal'a-tine** (the central hill of ancient Rome).
- pale** (*a.*) retains the *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant, as in **pale'ness**.
- pale**, *n.* (a restricted district; also, a stake). Distinguish from **PAIL**.
- pale** (*v.*) drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **paled**, **pal'ing**, and before **-ish** in forming the adjective **pal'ish**, NOT *paleish*.
- pa"le-og'ra-phy** drops the *y* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **pa"le-og'ra-pher**, **pa"le-o-graph'ic**. See **PH**.
- pa"le-on-tol'o-gy** drops the *y* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **pa"le-on-tol'o-gist**. See **G**.
- pal'et**. Distinguish from **PALLET**, **PALLETTE**, and **PALATE**. See under **PALATE**.
- pall** (a cloak or black cloth covering), distinguish from **pawl** (a hinged piece of machinery), and **Paul** (a man's name).
- Pal'las**. Distinguish from **PALACE**.
- pal'let**. Distinguish from **PALLETTE**. See under **PALATE**.
- pal'li-ate**, not *palleate*.
- pal'lid**, not *palid*.
- pal'lor**, not *polor*.
- palm**, not *pam* as it is pronounced. Note that the *l* is silent. See **L**.
- palm'is-try**, not *palmistery* or *palmystery*. Note that the *l* is silent. See **L**.
- palm'y** changes the *y* to *i* before **-er** and **-est** in forming the comparative and superlative **palm'i-er**, **palm'i-est**.
- pal'sy**, not *pallsy*. The *y* changes to *i* in forming the past participle **pal'sied**, but is *retained* in the present participle **pal'sy-ing**. See **S**.

**pal'try** (trivial), distinguish from **poul'try** (domestic fowls). *Paltry* changes the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **pal'tri-er**, **pal'tri-est**.

**pam'pas**, not *pampass*.

**pam'phlet**, not *pamflet* as pronounced. See **PH**.

**pan** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **panned**, **pan'ning**.

**pan'de-mo'ni-um**, not **pan'dæ-mo'ni-um**, an alternative form not frequently used.

**pan'der** (to cater to the prejudices, etc., of others), distinguish from **pan'dour** (a marauder).

**Pan-do'ra** (a beautiful woman of Greek mythology), distinguish from **pan-du'ra** (a lute-like musical instrument).

**pane** (a piece of window-glass, etc.), distinguish from **pain** (ache; suffering).

**pan'el**. The participles of this verb are written **pan'-eled** or **pan'elled**; **pan'el-ing** or **pan'el-ling**.

**pan'ic**, not *panick*; but **pan'ick-y**, not *paniky*.

**pan'nier**, not *panier* or *paneer*.

**pan'sy** changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural, **pan'sies**.

**pan'to-mime**, not *pantomine*.

**pa'pier'-mâ'ché'**, not *paper-maché'*.

**pa-py'rus** changes the *us* to *i* to form the plural **pa-py'ri**.

**pa-rab'o-la** (a conic section), distinguish from **pa-rab'o-le** (a comparison in rhetoric).

**par'a-chute**, not *parashoot*.

**par'a-digm**. Note that the *g* is silent. See **G**.

**par'af-fin**, **par'af-fine**. Both are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**par'al-lel**, not *paralel* or *parrallel*.

The participles of the verb are written **par'al-leled** or **par'al-lelled**; **par'al-lel-ing** or **par'al-lel-ling**.

**par'a-lyze**, **par'a-lyse**, not *paralise*. The first is used in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**par'a-pher-na'li-a**, not *paraphanalía*.

**par'a-phrase** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **par'a-phras-a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **par'a-phrased**, **par'a-phras'-ing**.

**par'cel**. The participles of this verb are written **par'-celed** or **par'celled**, **par'cel-ing** or **par'cel-ling**.

- par'ci-mo-ny** (sparingness in assumptions, etc., in logic), distinguish from **par'si-mo-ny** (stinginess).
- pare** (to cut off the covering or edge of), distinguish from **pair** (two), **pay'er** (one who pays), and from **pear** (a fruit). The verb **pare** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pared**, **par'ing**, NOT *pare'ing*.
- pa-ren'the-sis** changes the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **pa-ren'the-ses**.
- Pa'ri-ah**, not *Paria*.
- par'ing**, not *pareing*.
- par'ish** (a church district), distinguish from **per'ish** (to wither; decay).
- par'lia-ment**, not *parliament* as it is pronounced.
- par'lia-men'ta-ry**, not *parliamentary*.]
- par'o-dy** (*n.*) changes the *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural, **par'o-dies**.
- par'o-dy** (*v.*) changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **par'o-died**.
- pa-rol'** (given by word of mouth), distinguish from **pa-role'** (one's word of honor).
- par-quet'**, **par-quette'**. Both forms are, in use, but the first is preferred.
- par'ra-keet**, not *parakeet*.
- parrallel**. Misspelling of PARALLEL.
- par'ri-cide**, not *paracide*.
- par'ry** (*v.*) changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **par'ried**.
- par'ry** (*n.*) drops the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural, **par'ries**.
- parse** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **parsed**, **pars'ing**.
- par'si-mo-ny**. Distinguish from PARCIMONY.
- pars'ley**, not *parsly*.
- par-take'**. The parts of this verb are irregular, **par-tak'-en** being the past participle, **par-tak'ing** the present participle, and **par-took'** the preterit.
- part'i-ble**, not *partable*. See -IBLE, p. 8.
- par'ti-ci-ple**, not *participal*.
- par'ti-cle**, not *partical*.
- par-tic'u-lar**, not *particuler* or *perticular*.
- par-tic'u-lar-ize**, not *perticularize*.
- par'ti-zan**, **par'ti-san**. Both forms are in use; the first—Shakespeare's spelling—in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**Pas'cal** (a family name), distinguish from **pas'chal** (pertaining to the Passover). See **CH**.

**pa-sha'**, now preferred to **pa-cha'**.

**pass'a-ble** (1. Capable of being passed. 2. Fairly good. 3. Fit for circulation), distinguish from **pas'si-ble** (capable of feeling or suffering).

**passed** (gone by), distinguish from **past** (time gone by).

**pas'tel** (a picture drawn with crayons), distinguish from **pas'til** (a lozenge). The latter is sometimes spelled **pas'tille**.

**past'er** (one who pastes anything), distinguish from **pas'tor** (the minister of a flock; a clergyman), and from **pas'ture** (grazing land).

**Pas-teur'ize**, **Pas-teur'ise**, not *pasturize*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **Pas-teur'ized**, **Pas-teur'iz-ing** and before *-ation* in forming the noun **Pas-teur'i-za'tion**.

**pas'tor**, **pas'ture**. Distinguish from **PASTER**.

**pat** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **pat'ted**, **pat'-ting**.

**pa'tience** (the quality of being tolerant and calm), distinguish from **pa'tients** (persons in the care of a physician).

**pa-trol'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **pa-trolled'**, **pa-trol'ling**.

**pa'tron**, not *paytron* or *patrun*.

**pat'ro-nage**, not *patronedge* or *paytronage*.

**pat'ron-iz'a-ble**, not **pat'ron-is'a-ble** which is sometimes used in Great Britain but not recognized by modern English lexicographers.

**pat'ron-ize**, not *patrunize*. This verb drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pat'ron-ized**, **pat'ron-iz'ing**. The form **pat'ron-ise** is sometimes used in Great Britain.

**Paul** (a man's name), distinguish from **pall** (a cloak, or a covering for a coffin).

**pause** (a stop), distinguish from **paws** (the feet of an animal).

**pause** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **paused**, **paus'ing**, NOT *pauseing*.

**pav'er**, **pav'ier**, **pav'ior**, **pav'ior**. All spellings in use, but the first is preferred.

**pa-vil'ion**, not *pavillion*.

- paw** (the foot of an animal), distinguish from **poor** (the needy), and **pore** (an opening in the skin). See **PORE**, *v.*
- pea**. Note that the *a* is silent; also, that the word has two forms in the plural **peas** and **pease** (collective).
- peace** (tranquillity, rest), distinguish from **piece** (a part of anything).
- peace** retains the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as in **peace'a-ble**. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.
- peak** (a point, as the top of a mountain), distinguish from **pique** (to annoy, displease).
- peal** (a sound as of a bell or clap of thunder), distinguish from **peel** (the skin as of a fruit; also, a baker's implement).
- pear** (a fruit), distinguish from **pair** (two) and from **pare** (to cut off the rind or covering of).
- pearl** (a gem), distinguish from **purl** (a gentle murmur or ripple, as of water).
- peas'ant**, not *pezant*, as pronounced. Note that the *a* in the first syllable is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1, and **EA**, p. 75.
- pe-can'** (a hickory tree), distinguish from **pek'an** (a fox-like carnivorous quadruped).
- pe-cu'ni-a-ry**, not *pecuniery*.
- ped'a-gog**, **ped'a-gogue**. Both forms are in use.
- ped'a-gog'ic**, not *pedagogic*.
- ped'a-gog-ism**, not *pedagogism*, an old form still recorded as a variant by some dictionaries.
- ped'al** (to work a foot lever), distinguish from **ped'dle** (to sell).
- ped'dle**, not *pedle*. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ped'dled**; **ped'dling**, not *pedled*, *pedling*.
- ped'lar**, **ped'ler**, **ped'dler**. The first of these is used in Great Britain; the second in the United States, with the third as an alternative. The first recorded spelling—that of Langland in "Piers Plowman"—was *pedlere* (1377). Spenser used *pedler* in the "Shepherd's Calendar" (1579), but Milton wrote *pedlar* in his comment on Griffith's Sermon in 1660 and the latter form has prevailed in Great Britain ever since.
- peel**. Distinguish from **PEAL**.
- peer** (a nobleman, an equal), distinguish from **pier** (a wharf).

**peg** *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **pegged**, **peg'-ging**.

**Pe-king'**, alternative form **Pe'kin**.

**pel'i-can**, not *pelecan* or *pellican*, both obsolete forms.

**pe-lisse'** (a cloak), distinguish from **po-lice'** (municipal officers of the law).

**Pel'o-pon-ne'sian**, not *Pelloponesian*.

**Pel'o-pon-ne'sus**, not *Pelloponesus*.

**pelt'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **pelt'ries**.

**pen** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **penned**, **pen'-ning**.

**pence** (a plural of **PENNY**), distinguish from **pens** (a plural of **PEN**).

**pen'chant'**, not *panshon*, as sometimes pronounced.

**pen'cil** (to write; paint; draw), distinguish from **pen'sile** (hanging). The participles of the first word are spelt **pen'ciled** or **pen'cilled**, **pen'cil-ing** or **pen'cil-ling**, the second form prevailing in Great Britain.

**pen'dant** (an ornament), distinguish from **pen'dent** (hanging down).

**pen'den-cy**, not *pendancy*.

**pen'e-trate**, not *penitrate*.

**pen'i-tence**, not *penitense*.

**pen'i-tent**, not *penitant*.

**pen'i-ten'tia-ry**, not *penitentiery*. See **-ARY**, p. 6.

**pen'ny** *changes* *y* to *i* and adds *es* to form the plural **pen'nies**.

**pens**. Distinguish from **PENCE**.

**pen'sile** (hanging), distinguish from **pen'cil** (to mark, write, or draw with a pencil).

**pe'o-ny** is preferred to **pæ'o-ny**.

**peo'ple** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **peo'pled**, **peo'pling**. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3.

**per annum** should always be written as two words.

**per capita** should always be written as two words.

**per-ceiv'a-ble**, not *perceiveable*.

**per-ceive'**, not *percieve*. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **per-ceived'**, **per-ceiv'ing**. See **II**, p. 76.

**per-cent** should always be written as two words.

**per-cent'age** (one word), not *percentige*.

**per-cep'ti-ble**, not *perceptable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

- per'co-late *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles per'co-lat"ed, per'co-lat"ing.
- per'co-la"tor, not *percolater*.
- per con'tra should be written as two words.
- per'emp-to-ry, not *peremptary* or *peremptery*.
- per-en'ni-al, not *perannual*.
- per-fect'i-ble, not *perfectable*. See *-IBLE*, p. 9.
- per'il. The participles of this verb are written per'illed or per'illed, per'il-ing or per'il-ling.
- pe-rim'e-ter, not *perimeter*.
- per'i-pa-tet'ic, not *peripetetic*.
- per'i-scope, not *pairiscope*.
- per'ish (to die), distinguish from par'ish (a church district).
- per'ish-a-ble, not *perishible*. See *-ABLE*, p. 5.
- per'i-style, not *perystile*—a word derived from the Greek *peri*, around, and *stylos*, pillar.
- per'i-win"kle, not *perrywinkle*.
- per'jure *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles per'jured, per'jur-ing.
- per'jur-er, not *perjuror*. See *JUROR*.
- per'ma-nence, not *permenance*. See *-ENCE*, p. 8.
- per-mis'ci-ble (admitting of being mixed: from the Latin *misceo*, mix), distinguish from per-mis'si-ble (that permits).
- per-mis'si-ble, not *permissable*. See *-IBLE*, p. 9.
- per-mit' *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles per-mit'ted, per-mit'ting.
- per'se-cute (to harass or oppress), distinguish from pros'e-cute (to proceed against by legal process).
- per'se-cu'tion (annoyance; harassment), distinguish from pros'e-cu'tion (the act of prosecuting).
- per'se-ver'ance, not *perseverence*.
- per'se-vere', not *persivere*. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles per'se-vered', per'se-ver'ing.
- per'son-age (a man or woman of rank or dignity), distinguish from par'son-age (a parson's dwelling).
- per'son-al (individual, private), distinguish from per'son-nel' (persons collectively, as in the naval or military service).
- per-suad'a-ble, not *persuadible*. See *-ABLE*, p. 5.
- per-sua'si-ble, not *persuasable*. See *-IBLE*, p. 9.
- per'ti-na'cious, not *pertinaceous*.

- per-turb'a-ble**, not *perturbible*. See -ABLE, p. 5.  
**per-turb'ance**, not *perturbence*. See -ANCE, p. 5.  
**per-verse'**, not *purverse*.  
**per-vert'**, not *pervurt*.  
**per-vert'i-ble**, not *pervertible*. See -IBLE, p. 9.  
**per'vi-ous**, not *perveous*.  
**pes'si-mism**, not *pesimism*.  
**pes'ti-lence**, not *pestilance*. See -ENCE, p. 8.  
**pet** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **pet'ted**, **pet'-ting**, and in the adjective **pet'ta-ble**.  
**pet'aled**, **pet'alled**. Both forms are in good use, but the first is preferred.  
**pet'it** (small: a law term of which the final *t* is silent), distinguish from **pet'ty** (trifling, inferior).  
**pet'rel** (a small sea-bird), distinguish from **pet'rol** (gasoline).  
**pet'ri-fac'tion** (a turning to stone), distinguish from **put're-fac'tion** (rottenness).  
**pet'ri-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before -ed in forming the past participle **pet'ri-fied**, but retains it before -ing in the present participle **pet'ri-fy'ing**.  
**pet'ti-coat**, not *peticoat* or *pettycote*.  
**pet'ty** drops the *y* for *i* in forming the comparative and superlative **pet'ti-er**, **pet'ti-est**. Distinguish from PETIT.  
**pet'u-lance**, not *petulence*. See -ANCE, p. 5.  
**pet'u-lant**, not *petulent*. See -ANT, p. 6.  
**ph**. This digraph usually represents the sound of *f* in words derived from the Greek as in *phlegm*, *philosophy*, *phosphorus*, *phrensy*, etc. In the name *Stephen* it indicates the sound of *v*, and in the English pronunciation of *nephew* it indicates the same sound. Formerly, in such words as *diphtheria*, *diphthong*, *naphtha*, it represented the sound of *p*, but now that of *f*. In *apothegm* (formerly *apophthegm*) it is usually dropped entirely, and it is silent in *phthisic* and *phthisis*. In *sapphire*, notwithstanding that the *p* is doubled, no sound but that of *f* is heard.  
**pha'lanx** (one of the bones of the fingers or toes), forms its plural by adding -es or by dropping the *x* and adding -es—**pha-lan'ges**.  
**phan'tom**. Old form of **fan'tom**. The word is derived from the Old French *fantôme*.



**Pha'raoh** (a king of Egypt), distinguish from **fa'ro** (a game).

**phar'ma-ceu'tic**, not *pharmacuetic*.

**phar'ma-cist**, not *pharmacyst*.

**phar'ma-co-poe'i-a**, not *pharmacopia*.

**phar'ma-cy** drops the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **phar'ma-cies**.

**phar'ynx** drops the *x* and adds *-ges* in forming the plural **pha-ryn'ges**.

**phase** (a view presented to the eye), distinguish from **faze** (to worry; vex; scare; disturb).

**pheas'ant**. Note that this word is pronounced as if spelled *fezant*, the *a* in the first syllable being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A.

**phe'nix, phoenix**. Both forms are in use.

**phe-nom'e-non** changes *on* to *a* in the plural **phe-nom'e-na**.

**Phil'ip** (a masculine personal name), not *Phillip*. Distinguish from **fil'ip** (a snap of the fingers).

**Phil'ip-pine**, not *Phillipine*.

**phi-lol'o-gy** (the science of language), distinguish from **phy-lol'o-gy** (the science of physical laws and development of various race-types).

**phil'o-pe'na**, not *filopena*.

**phi-lcs'o-phize**, not *philosophise*.

**phil'ter, phil'tre** (a love charm). Both forms are in use. Distinguish from **fil'ter** (a strainer).

**phle-bot'o-my** (blood-letting). Note that the word has but one *t*.

**phlegm**. Pronounced as if written *flem*, the *g* being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

**phlox** (a flowering plant), distinguish from **flocks** (groups of birds or sheep).

**Phoe'nix** (city in Arizona), distinguish from **phe'nix** (1. A sacred bird of Egyptian mythology. 2. A prodigy).

**pho-net'ic, pho-net'ics**. The forms **fo-net'ic** and **fo-net'ics** are also in use.

**pho'no-graph**, not *phonagraph*.

**phos'phor-us** (a chemical element), distinguish from **phos'phor-ous** (pertaining to or obtained from phosphorus).

**pho'to** forms the plural by adding *s*—**pho'tos**.

**pho'to-gra-vure'**, not *photogreveur*.

**phrase** (a concise expression), distinguish from **fraise** (1. A marbler's tool. 2. A ruff. 3. A pancake), and from **frays** (that wears out).

**phren'sy**. Obsolete spelling of **FRENZY**.

**phthal'e-in**, not *phthaline*.

**phthis'ic**, not as pronounced *tizik*. See **PH**.

**phthi'sis**. Pronounced as if spelled *thie'sis*. See **PH**.

**phy-lac'ter-y**, not *philactery*.

**phy-lol'o-gy**. Distinguish from **PHILOLOGY**.

**phys'ic** (medicine), not *physick*. Distinguish from **physique'** (physical build).

**phys'i-cal-ly**, not *physicly* as often carelessly pronounced.

**phys'ick-y**, not *physiky*.

**pi** (printing-type that has been confused), distinguish from **pie** (pastry). The verb **pi** (to confuse type) forms its past participle by adding *-ed*, **pied**, and *-ing* for the present participle **pie'ing**.

**pi-a'no** forms the plural by adding *s*—**pi-a'nos**. See **PLURALS**, p. 13.

**pic'ca-lil'li** (a condiment), not *piccallily*.

**picked** (selected), not *pickt*. Distinguish from **pick'ed** (sharp-pointed, as a stick).

**pick'er-el**, not *pickrel*.

**pick'et** (a military outpost), not *piquet*, an old form.

**pick'ling**, not *pickeling*.

**pic'nic** (*v.*). The participles are formed by adding *k* before *-ed* and *-ing*, **pic'nicked**, **pic'nick-ing**.

**pic'ture** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pic'tured**, **pic'tur-ing**.

**pic'tur-esque'**. The final syllable is pronounced as if written *-esk*.

**pidg'in-English**, not *pigeon-English*.

**pie** (1. A magpie. 2. Pastry). Distinguish from **PI**.

**piece** (a part of some thing), distinguish from **peace** (tranquillity).

**pier** (a wharf), distinguish from **peer** (an aristocrat; an equal).

**perce**, not *peirce*. See **PE**, p. 9.

**pig** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **pigged**, **pig'-ging**; also, in the noun **pig'ger-y** and the adjective **pig'gish**.

**pig'eon**, not *pigon*.

**pig'my**, not *pygmy*. The *y* changes to *i* and *-es* is added to form the plural **pig'mies**.

**Pi'late** (the procurator of Judea in A.D. 26), distinguish from **pi'lot** (one that steers a ship).

**pi'l'lar**, not *piller*.

**pi'l'o-ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pi'l'o-ried**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **pi'l'o-ry-ing**.

**pin** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **pinned**, **pin'-ning**.

**pi-na'ccous** (pertaining to the pine-tree), not *pinacious*.

**pinch'beck** (spurious; also, pretentious imitation), distinguish from **pinch'back** (a tailor's mode of fitting a coat close in the back).

**pin'nace**, not *pinace*.

**pin'na-cle** (a summit), not *pinacle*. Distinguish from **pin'o-cle** (a card-game).

**pi'o-neer'**, not *pionnier*.

**pi'ous** (religious; godly), distinguish from **Pi'us** (the name of several Popes).

**pip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **pipped**, **pip'-ping**.

**pipe** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **piped**, **pip'ing**.

**pique** (to annoy; irritate; displease), distinguish from **peak** (a point or summit of a mountain), and from **pi'qué'** (a heavy cotton fabric).

**pique** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **piqued**, **piqu'ing**, NOT *piqueing*.

**pi'quet'** (a card-game), distinguish from **pick'et** (a military outpost).

**pyramid**. Misspelling of PYRAMID.

**pi'rate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pi'rat-ed**, **pi'rat-ing**.

**pis'ci-cul'ture**, not *pisiculture*. Derived from the Latin, *piscis*, fish.

**pis'til** (the seed-bearing organ of a flowering plant), not *pistile*. Distinguish from **pis'tol** (a firearm), and from **pis'tole'** (a gold coin).

**pis'tol** (v.). The participles of this verb are written **pis'-toled** or **pis'tolled**, **pis'tol-ing** or **pis'tol-ing**.

**pit** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **pitted**, **pit'-ting**.

**pitch'blende**, not *pichblend* or *pitchblend*.

**pit'e-ous**, not *pitious* or *pityous*.

**pit'i-ful**, not *pitifull* or *pityful*. See **-FUL**.

**pit'i-less**, not *pityless*; also, **pit'i-less-ly**, **pit'i-less-ness**.  
**Pitts'burgh**. Frequently misspelled *Pittsburg*. The *h* is in the official name and should be retained.

**pit'y** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pit'ied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **pit'y-ing**. See also **PITEOUS**, **PITIFUL**, **PITLESS**.

**Pi'us** (the name of several Popes), distinguish from **pi'ous** (religious).

**pla'cate** (appease), distinguish from **plack'et** (a slit or opening in a skirt).

**place** (situation; rank), distinguish from **plaice** (a flat fish).

**place** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **placed**, **plac'ing**.

**plack'et**. Distinguish from **PLACATE**.

**pla'gi-a-rist**, not *playgerist*, as sometimes mispronounced.

**pla'gi-a-rize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pla'gi-a-rized**, **pla'gia-riz'ing**. In Great Britain, spelled **pla'gi-a-rise**.

**plaice** (a flat fish), distinguish from **place** (position; situation; rank).

**plain** (I. *a.* Clear; distinct. II. *n.* An expanse of flat country), distinguish from **plane** (1. An airplane. 2. A carpenter's smoothing tool).

**plain'tiff** (one who begins an action at law), distinguish from **plain'tive** (melancholy; mournful; sad).

**plait** (a braid; a fold), distinguish from **plate** (a dish; also, a slab, as of metal).

**plan** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **planned**, **plan'ning**.

**plane**. Distinguish from **PLAIN**.

**plaque**, not *plack*.

**plas'ter**, not *plaister*.

**plat** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **plat'ted**, **plat'ting**.

**pla-teau'** forms its plural by adding *s* or *x*. See **PLURALS**, p. 14.

**plau'si-bil'i-ty**, not *plausability*.

**plau'si-ble**, not *plausable*.

**please** (to give pleasure to), distinguish from **pleas** (pleadings in law).

**pleat**. A variant form of **PLAIT**, which see.

**pledge** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pledged**, **pledg'ing**, and before *-ee*, *-er*, and sometimes *-or*, as in **pledg'ee**, **pledg'er**, **pledg'or**, the last of which is sometimes written **pledge'or**.

**Plei'a-des**, not *Pliades*.

**plen'i-po-ten'ti-a-ry**, not *plenipotentieri*. The *y* changes to *i* and *-es* is added in forming the plural **plen'i-po-ten'ti-a-ries**.

**plen'te-ous**, not *plentious*.

**plen'ty** changes *y* to *i* when *-ful* is added, **plen'ti-ful**.

**pleu'ri-sy**, not *pleurasy*.

**plight**. Note that the *gh* is silent. See **GH**.

**plod** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **plod'ded**, **plod'ding**.

**plot** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **plot'ted**, **plot'ting**.

**plow**, **plough**. Both forms are in use but the first prevails: it is the spelling of the English Bible.

**plug** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **plugged**, **plug'ging**.

**plum** (a fruit), distinguish from **plumb** (vertical). Note that the *b* of the latter word is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2, and **B**.

**plumb'er**, not *plummer* as pronounced. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2, and **B**.

**plu-toc'ra-cy**, not *plutocracy*.

**pn**. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **P**.

**pneu-mat'ic**. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See **P**.

**pneu-mo'ni-a**. Initial *p* before *n* is silent. See **P**.

**poach**, **poach'er**, **poach'y**. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1.

**pod** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **pod'ded**, **pod'ding**.

**poise** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **poised**, **pois'ing**. Note that in speech *s* is sounded as *z*. See **S**.

**poi'son**. The *s* in this word and its derivatives has the sound of *z*. See **S**.

**po'lar** (pertaining to the poles), distinguish from **pol'ler** (one who votes).

- po'lar-i-za'tion, po'lar-i-sa'tion.** Both forms are in use; the first, in the United States; the second, in Great Britain.
- po'lar-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **po'lar-ized, po'lar-iz'ing.** The parent-word and its derivatives are spelled with *s* instead of *z* in Great Britain.
- pole** (1. A staff. 2. The northernmost and the southernmost points of the earth), distinguish from **poll** (1. The head. 2. The voting at an election).
- po-lice'** (officers of the law), distinguish from **pe-lisse'** (a cloak).
- po-lice'** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **po-liced', po-lic'ing.**
- pol'len**, not *pollin*.
- pol'ler.** Distinguish from **POLAR.**
- pol-lute'**, not *polute*. This verb drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pol-lut'ed, pol-lut'ing.**
- pol-lut'er**, not *pollutor*.
- pol'y-gon**, not *pollygon*.
- pom'ace** (crushed or ground apples), distinguish from **pum'ice** (a spongy, volcanic lava).
- pome'gran-ate**, not *pomgranite*.
- pom'mel**, not *pummel*. When a verb the participles are spelled **pom'meled** or **pom'melled, pom'mel-ing** or **pom'mel-ling.**
- po'ny** changes the *y* for *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **po'nies.**
- poor** (indigent; weak; feeble), distinguish from **pore** (to ponder, a small orifice in the membrane), **pour** (to cause to flow in a continuous stream). Compare **PAW.**
- pop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **popped, pop'ping.**
- pop'lin**, not *popeline*, which is the French spelling.
- pop'per**, not *paper*.
- pop'u-lace** (the people), distinguish from **pop'u-lous** (thickly peopled).
- por'ce-lain**, not *porcelane* or *porcelin*.
- pore** (to ponder over with close attention), distinguish from **pour** (to cause to flow in a continuous stream). Compare **PAW.**
- port** (a harbor), distinguish from **Porte** (the Turkish government).
- port'a-ble**, not *portible*.

- port-fo'li-o** forms the plural by adding *s*, **port-fo'li-os**.  
**por"tière'**, not *portiare*.  
**pos'a-ble**, not *poseable*.  
**pose** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **posed**, **pos'ing**.  
**pos-sess'**, not *posess*—the medial *s* has the sound of *z*.  
**pos'si-ble**, not *possable*.  
**post"-mor'tem**, not *post-mortum*.  
**post-pone'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **post-poned'**, **post-pon'ing**, but *retains* it before *-ment* in the noun **post-pone'ment**.  
**pos'tu-late** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pos'tu-lat'ed**, **pos'tu-lat'ing**.  
**pos'tur-al**, not *postureal*.  
**pos'ture** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pos'tured**, **pos'tur-ing**.  
**po'sy**, not *pozy*. This word changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **po'sies**.  
**pot** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **pot'ted**, **pot'ting**.  
**po'ta-ble**, not *potible*.  
**po-ta'to** takes *-es* in forming the plural **po-ta'toes**. See PLURALS OF NOUNS, p. 13.  
**Pough-keep'sie**. This is an Amerind word, derived from *Peoghkepesingh*, the place where the water breaks, pronounced as if spelled *poktpsi*.  
**poul'ter-er**, not *polterer* or *poultrer*.  
**poul'tice**, not *poltice*. The spelling *poltis*, current in 1645 and after, indicates the modern pronunciation of the word.  
**poul'try** (domestic fowls), distinguish from **pal'try** (trivial).  
**pour** (to cause to flow in a continuous stream), distinguish from **PORE**, and compare **PAW**.  
**Pow'ha-tan'**, not *Powhattan*.  
**prac'tise**, **prac'tice**. Both forms are in use. The first is derived from the French *practiser*; the second from the Latin *practico*.  
**prai'rie**, not *prarie*.  
**prais'a-ble**, not *praiseable*. The various forms assumed by this word may be used to show the vagaries of English spelling: Wyclif (1382), *preysable*; (1388), *preisable*; Fisher (1509), *praysable*; Segar (1602), *praiseable*; Davis (1716), *praisable*.

**praise** (commendation), distinguish from **prays** (third person singular of **PRAY**, to invoke), and from **preys** (third person singular of **PREY**, to plunder).

**praise** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **praised**, **prais'ing**. In these words *s* has the sound of *z*.

**prat'tle**, not *prattel*. In forming the participles of the verb the *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing*, **prat'tled**, **prat'tling**.

**prawn** (a shrimp-like crustacean), distinguish from **prone** (prostrate).

**pray** (to invoke), distinguish from **prey** (to seize and devour animal food).

**preach**, not *preech*. Compare **BREACH**; **BREECH**.

**pre-cau'tious** (prudent, careful), distinguish from **pre-co'cious** (unusually forward; ripe too soon).

**pre-cede'** (to go in advance), not *preceed*. Distinguish from **pro-ceed'** (to go on forward; continue). See **RULES FOR SPELLING**, p. 6.

**pre-ce'dent** (going before), distinguish from **prec'e-dent** (an authoritative example).

**pre-ces'sion** (the act of preceding), distinguish from **pro-ces'sion** (the act of proceeding; also, a cavalcade or parade).

**pre'cinct**, not *precint*.

**pre'cious**, not *preshus* as it is pronounced.

**prec'i-pice**, not *precipiece*, *precipis*, or *presipice*.

**pre-cip'i-ta-ble**, not *precipitatable*.

**pre-cur'sor**, not *precurser*.

**pred'a-to-ry**, not *predatery*.

**pred'e-ces'sor**, not *predecesser* or *preedecesser*.

**pre-dom'i-nance**, not *predominence*. See **RULES FOR SPELLING**, p. 5.

**pre-fer'** doubles the final *r* in forming the participles **pre-ferred'**, **pre-fer'ring**.

**pref'er-ence**, not *preferance*.

**pre-hen'si-ble**, not *prehensable*.

**prem'i-ces** (first fruits), distinguish from **prem'ises** (buildings or land, as property).

**pre-mise'** (to write or speak by way of introduction), pronounced *pre-mize'*, is spelled the same way as **prem'ise** (a proposition that serves as a basis of an argument), which is pronounced *prem'is*.

**pre'mi-um**, not *primum*.



- pre'mo-ni'tion** (a fore-warning), distinguish from **pre'-mu-ni'tion** (a fortifying in advance; preparedness against danger).
- pre-oc'cu-pan-cy**, not *preoccupancy*.
- pre-par'a-ble**, not *prepareable* or *preparable*.
- prep'a-ra'tion**, not *preperation*.
- pre-pare'** changes the final *e* to *a* in forming the adjective **pre-par'a-to-ry**, and the final *y* changes to *i* before *-ly* in forming the adverb **pre-par'a-to-ri-ly**.
- pre-pare'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-pared'**, **pre-par'ing**.
- prep'o-si'tion** (a part of speech), distinguish from **prop'o-si'tion** (an offer for consideration).
- pre-pos'ter-ous**, not *prepostrous* as frequently carelessly pronounced.
- pre-rog'a-tive**, not *perogative*.
- pre-sage'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-saged'**, **pre-sag'ing** (not, *presage-ing*). The noun is stressed **pres'age**.
- pre'sci-ence**, not *presience*.
- pre-scribe'** (to direct to be used, as a remedy), distinguish from **pro-scribe'** (to exclude; prohibit; reject).
- pre-scrip'tion** (a written direction), distinguish from **pro-scrip'tion** (the act of outlawing persons).
- pres'ence** (the state of being in evidence), distinguish from **pres'ents** (gifts; donations).
- pre-sen'ti-ment** (a foreboding), distinguish from **pre-sent'ment** (presentation).
- pre-serv'a-ble**, not *preservible*.
- pre-serve'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-served'**, **pre-serv'ing**.
- pre-sume'** drops the final *e* before *-able*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing* in **pre-sum'a-ble**, **pre-sumed'**, **pre-sum'er**, **pre-sum'ing**.
- pre-tence'**, **pre-tense'**. Both forms are in use; the first, chiefly in Great Britain; the second, in the United States.
- pret'er-it**, **pret'er-ite**. Both forms are in use.
- pret'ty**, not *pritty* as commonly pronounced. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **pret'ti-er**, **pret'ti-est**.
- pre-var'i-cate** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pre-var'i-cat'ed**, **pre-var'i-cat'ing**.

**pre-var'i-ca"tor**, not *prevaricator*.

**prey** (I. *v.* To seize and devour animal food. II. *n.* Booty or anything obtained as the result of robbery and pillage), distinguish from **pray** (to invoke; entreat).

**prey'ing**. Distinguish from **pray'ing**. See **PRAY**; **PREY**.

**preys** (plunders), distinguish from **praise** (commendation) and **prays** (petitions).

**price** (cost), distinguish from **prize** (reward). See **PRIES**.

**pric'ing**, not *pricewing*.

**pride** (self-esteem), distinguish from **pried** (looked closely into).

**pri'er** (one who pries), distinguish from **pri'or** (an officer of a monastery).

**pries** (inspects closely), distinguish from **prize** (a reward).

**priest**, not *preist*.

**prig** *doubles* the *g* before suffixes as in **prig'ger-y**, **prig'-gish**, **prig'gism**, etc.

**prim** *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **primmed**, **prim'ming**.

**pri'ma don'na**, not *primer* or *primma donna*.

**pri'ma fa'ci-e**. Pronounced as if spelled *pri'ma fay'shi-ee*.

**pri'mage**, not *primeage*.

**prim'er** (1. An elementary book. 2. One who or that which primes a gun), distinguish from **prim'mer** (more precise; neater).

**prim'i-tive**, not *primative*.

**prince** (a son of a monarch), distinguish from **prints** (printed pictures or impressions).

**prin'ci-pal** (I. *a.* Chief, first in rank. II. *n.* 1. A sum invested at interest. 2. A chief), distinguish from **prin'ci-ple** (rule of conduct; a general truth).

**pri'or**. Distinguish from **PRIER**.

**pri'vate** (personal, secret), distinguish from **priv'et** (a shrub).

**pri"va-teer'**, not *privatier*.

**priv'i-lege**, not *privilege*.

**priv'y** changes *y* to *i* in forming the adverb **priv'i-ly**, and the noun **priv'i-ty**.

**prize** (a reward), distinguish from **price** (cost), and **pries** (inspects closely or forces open).

**pro-ce'dure**, not *proceedure*.

**pro-ceed'** (to go forward), distinguish from **pre-cede'** (to go in advance).

**pro-ces'sion** (a cavalcade or show; parade), distinguish from **pre-ces'sion** (a coming in advance of)

**pro-claim'**, not *proclame*.

**pro-claim'er**, not *proclamer*.

**proc"la-ma'tion**, not *proclamation*.

**pro-cure'** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-cur'a-ble**, before *-acy*, *-ation*, *-ator* in forming the nouns **proc'u-ra-cy**, **proc"u-ra'tion**, **proc'u-ra'tor**, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-cured'**, **pro-cur'ing**.

**prod** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **prod'ded**, **prod'ding**.

**pro-dig'i-ous**, not *prodigious*.

**prod'i-gy** changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **prod'i-gies**.

**pro-duc'i-ble**, not *produceable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

**pro-duct'i-ble**, not *productable*. See **-IBLE**, p. 9.

**pro-fes'sor**, not *professer* or *proffessor*.

**prof'it** does not double the *t* in forming the participles **prof'it-ed**, **prof'it-ing**.

**prof'it** (gain; benefit), distinguish from **proph-et** (one who foretells).

**prof'it-a-ble**, not *profitible*.

**pro'gram**, **pro'gramme**. Both forms are in use, but the second prevails.

**pro"le-ta'ri-at**, not *proletariate*.

**prom'is-er**, **prom'is-or**, **prom'is-sor**. These forms are all in use; the dictionaries indicate the second form as preferred.

**prom'is-so"ry**, not *promissary*.

**pro-mot'er**, not *promotor*.

**pro'mul-ga"tor**, not *promulgater*.

**prone** (inclined), distinguish from **prawn** (a shrimp-like crustacean).

**pro-nounce'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-nounced'**, **pro-nounc'ing**, but retains it before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-nounce'a-ble**.

**pro-nun"ci-a'tion**, not *pronunciation*.

**prop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **propped**, **prop'ping**.

**prop'a-ga-ble**, not *propagatable*.

**prop'a-gate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **prop'a-gat'ed**, **prop'a-gat'ing**.

- prop'a-ga"tor**, not *propagater*.  
**pro-pel'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **pro-pel'-led**, **pro-pel'ling**.  
**pro-pel'lent**, not *propellant*.  
**pro-pel'ler**, not *propellor*.  
**pro-pense'** (lying flat; prone), distinguish from **pre-pense'** (premeditated).  
**proph'e-cy** (a prediction), distinguish from **proph'e-sy** (to predict). The final syllable of the first is *short*, that of the second is *long*.  
**proph'et** (one who foretells), distinguish from **prof'it** (gain; benefit).  
**pro-pi'ti-a"tor**, not *propitiater*.  
**prop'o-si'tion** (something offered for consideration), distinguish from **prep'o-si'tion** (a part of speech).  
**pro-pri'e-ta-ry**, not *proprietary*.  
**pro-pri'e-tor**, not *proprietier*.  
**pro-pul'sion**, not *propulshon* as it is pronounced.  
**pro ra'ta**, not *pro rater*.  
**pro-rate'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-rat'ed**, **pro-rat'ing**.  
**pro-rogue'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-rogued'**, **pro-rogu'ing**. The noun is spelled **pro"ro-ga'tion**.  
**pro-sce'ni-um**, not *prosceneum*.  
**pro-scribe'** (to outlaw; ostracize), distinguish from **pre-scribe'** (to direct the administering of a medicine, etc.).  
**pro-scrip'tion** (the act of outlawing persons), distinguish from **pre-scrip'tion** (a written direction).  
**pros'e-cute** (to proceed against; also, to follow up; carry on), distinguish from **per'se-cute** (to harass or worry persistently). Both of these verbs drop the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pros'e-cut'ed**, **pros'e-cut'ing**, and **per'se-cut'ed**, **per'se-cut'ing**.  
**pros"e-cu'tion** (the act of proceeding against), distinguish from **per"se-cu'tion** (the act of harassing).  
**pros'e-cu"tor**, not *prosecuter*.  
**pros'tate** (characterizing a gland), distinguish from **pros'trate** (lying at length on the ground).  
**pros'y**, not *prosey*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **pros'i-er**, **pros'i-est**.

**pro"té"gé'** (*masc.*), distinguish from **pro"té"gee'** (*fem.*).  
**pro'te-id**, **pro'te-in**. The second syllable of these words is frequently obscured in speech—not *protid* or *protin*.

**pro tem** is an abbreviation of *pro tempore* (L., for the time being).

**pro-test'er**, not *protestor*.

**pro-thon'o-ta-ry**, not *prothonotory*. The form **pro-ton'-o-ta-ry** is sometimes used.

**pro-tract'er**, **pro-tract'or**. Both are in good use.

**pro-trude'** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pro-trud'a-ble**, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-trud'ed**, **pro-trud'ing**.

**pro-tu'ber-ance**, not *protuberence*. See **-ANCE**, p. 5.

**prove** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **prov'a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **proved**, **prov'ing**.

**prov'i-dence**, not *providence*. See **-ENCE**, p. 8.

**pro-vin'cial**, not *provinshal* as it is pronounced.

**pro-vi'sion-a-ry**, not *provisionery* or *provisionry*.

**pro-voke'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pro-voked'**, **pro-vok'ing**, but changes the *k* for *c* before *-ation* and *-ative* in **prov'o-ca'tion**, **pro-voc'a-tive**.

**prov'ost** is sometimes pronounced *pro-vo'*, but the spelling does not change.

**prox'y** forms the plural by changing *y* for *i* and *-es* is added, **prox'ies**.

**pru'dence**, not *prudance*.

**psalm**. Note that in this word and its derivatives **psalm'-ist**, **psalm'o-dy**, the *p* and *l* are silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3.

**Psal'ter** (a book of psalms), distinguish from **sal'ter** (one who sells salt). See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **P**.

**pseud-**, **pseu'do-**. A prefix, from the Greek *pseudes*, false, of which the *p* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **P**.

**pseu'do-nym**, not *pseudonyme*. See **PSEUD-**, **PSEUDO-**.

**ps'o-ra**. Note that the *p* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **P**. Distinguish **ps'o-ra** (the itch) from **so'ra** (a bird of the rail type).

**ps'o-ri'a-sis** (the itch or some other skin disease), distinguish from **si-ri'a-sis** (sunstroke). See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3.

**psy'chic, psy'chi-cal.** Note that the *p* is silent and that *ch* has the sound of *k*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and CH and P.

**psy-chol'o-gy.** Note that the *p* is silent and that *ch* has the sound of *k*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and CH and P.

**ptar'mi-gan.** Note that the *p* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and P. The word has two plurals, the first is spelled the same as the singular, and the second adds *s*. See IRREGULAR PLURALS, p. 3.

**pter-, pter'o-.** A prefix, derived from the Greek *pteron*, wing, feather, plume, of which the *p* is silent, as in **pter'o-dac'tyl, pto'ma-in, pto'ma-ine.**

**puff'in** (a marine bird), distinguish from **puff'ing** (panting; blowing).

**puis'ne** (younger; inferior), distinguish from **pu'ny** (small and insignificant).

**pul'ver-iz'a-ble**, not *pulverisable*.

**pul'ver-ize**, not *pulvarize* or *pulverise*.

**pum'ice** (a spongy volcanic lava), distinguish from **pom'ace** (ground apples).

**pump'kin**, not *punkin*.

**pun** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **punned, pun'ning.**

**pu'ny.** Distinguish from PUISNE.

**pur'chase** drops the *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective **pur'chas-a-ble** and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pur'chased, pur'chas-ing.**

**pure** drops the *e* in the verb **pu'ri-fy**, which changes *y* for *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pu'ri-fied.**

**purge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **purged, purg'ing.**

**pu'ri-fy** retains the final *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **pu'ri-fy'ing.**

**pur'l** (a gentle murmur or ripple of water), distinguish from **pearl** (a gem).

**pur-sue'** drops the *e* before *-able*, *-ance*, and *-ant* in **pur-su'a-ble, pur-su'ance, pur-su'ant.** It drops it also before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **pur-sued', pur-su'ing.**

**pur-vey'ance**, not *purveyence*.

**put'** (to set in place) doubles the *t* in the present participle **put'ting.** The past participle is **put**, not *putted*.

- put**<sup>a</sup> (to strike a ball in golf) *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **put'ted**, **put'ting**.  
**pu'tre-fy**, not *putrify*. This verb changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **pu'tre-fied**.  
**put'ty** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **put'tied**.  
**puz'zle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **puz'zled**, **puz'zling**; also, before *-er*, in **puz'zler**, and *-ment* in **puz'zle-ment**.  
**pyc'no-style**, not *picnostyle*.  
**pyr'a-mid**, not *piramide*.  
**pyre**, not *pire*.  
**py'rite**, not *piryte*.  
**py-rog'ra-phy**, not *pirography*.  
**pyr'rhic**. Note that the *h* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.

## Q

- q**. This letter is commonly followed by *u*, whether initial, as in *queen*, *question*, medial, as in *conqueror*, *equal*, *liquor*, or final as in *antique*, *grotesque*, *cheque*, etc. The digraph *qu* generally has the sound of *k* followed by *w*, except when final, then it has the sound of *k*.  
 In words derived from the French, as *casque*, *coquette*, *croquette*, etc., the letters *qu* also have the sound of *k*.  
**quad'rat** (a piece of type-metal), distinguish from **quad'-rate** (to divide into quarters).  
**quad-ren'ni-al**, not *quadrenial*.  
**quad'ri-lat'er-al** (a four-sided figure), distinguish from **quad'ri-lit'er-al** (a word or root of four letters).  
**quad-ru'pli-cate**, not *quadriplicate*.  
**qua'haug**, not *cohog* or *kworhog* as it is sometimes pronounced.  
**quail**, not *quale*.  
**quar'an-tine'**, not *quaranteen*. The word drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quar'an-tined'**, **quar'an-tin'ing**.  
**quar'el**. The participles of this word are written **quar'-reled** or **quar'relled**, **quar'el-ing** or **quar'el-ling**. The noun is spelt **quar'el-er** or **quar'el-ler**.  
**quartz** (a rock crystal), distinguish from **quarts** (plural of **quart**, a measure of capacity).  
**quay** (a wharf), distinguish from **key** (for a lock).

**queen** (a woman sovereign), distinguish from **quean** (in England, a bold or brazen woman; in Scotland, a buxom lassie or young woman).

**que'ry** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **que'ried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **que'ry-ing**.

**ques'tion-a-ble'**, not *questionable*.

**ques'tion-a-ry**, the English form of the French word **ques'tion-naire'** (correctly pronounced *kes'tion-naire'*), not *questionery*.

**queue** (a file of persons; also, a braid of hair), distinguish from **cue** (a tapering rod used in playing billiards).

**qui'et** (still; in a state of rest; silent), distinguish from **quite** (to the fullest extent).

**Quin'cy** (an American family name), distinguish from **quin'sy** (inflammation of the tonsils).

**quin'ine**, rather than **quin'in**, because it is more widely used and is its original spelling, being introduced in 1820.

**quin-quen'ni-al**, not *quinquennial*.

**quin-quen'ni-um**, not *quinquennium*.

**quin'sy**, not *quin'zy*.

**Quin-til'i-an** (a Roman writer), distinguish from **quin-til'ion** (the cube of a million [U. S.]: 1 followed by 18 ciphers; [Gt. Brit.]: 1 followed by 30 ciphers).

**quire** (twentieth part of a ream of paper), distinguish from **choir** (a body of trained singers).

**quire** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quired**, **quir'ing**.

**quite** Distinguish from **QUIET**.

**Quix'ote** (*Don*), not as it is pronounced, *don kwiksote* or *don kehotey*.

**Quix-ot'ic** (foolish; unpractical), not *quicksotic*.

**quiz** doubles the *z* in forming the participles **quizzed**, **quizz'ing**.

**quo'in** (a corner), distinguish from **coin** (money) and **coign** (a projecting stone).

**quo'rum**, not *quorum*.

**quote** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **quot'ed**, **quot'ing**.

**quo'tient**, not *quoshent* as it is pronounced.



## R

- r.** This letter is used singly or doubled in different positions in English words, as in *rat*, *herring*, *barn*, *beer*. In words derived from foreign languages it is sometimes indicated by *rh* and *rrh*, as in *rheumatism*, *catarrh*, *diarrhea*, etc.  
*R* or *rh* may follow other consonants (not *l*, *m*, *n*, *y*), but is followed only by a vowel sound; as, *rhododendron*, *rhubarb*, but the *r* is dropped in *farther* = *father*.
- rab'bet** (a groove), distinguish from **rab'bit** (a hare-like burrowing animal).
- race** (to engage in a competitive trial of speed), distinguish from **raise** (to lift up), and from **rays** (a number of beams of light), and **raze** (to tear down; destroy).
- race** (*v.*) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raced**, **rac'ing**.
- ra'chis** adds *-es* to form the plural **ra'chis-es**.
- rack** (1. To torture. 2. To move with a pacing motion, as a horse. 3. To draw liquor from the lees), distinguish from **wrack** (destruction).
- rac'y** (pungent; lively) changes *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **rac'i-er** and the superlative **rac'i-est**.
- ra'di-ance**, not *radiance*. See **-ANCE**, p. 5.
- ra'di-ate** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ra'di-at'ed**, **ra'di-at'ing**.
- rad'i-cal** (extreme), distinguish from **rad'i-cle** (a rootlet).
- ra'di-i**. Plural of **RADIUS**.
- rad'ish** (a vegetable with a pungent root), distinguish from **red'dish** (somewhat red).
- ra'di-us** (*sing.*) *drops* the *us* and adds *i* in forming the plural **ra'di-i**. See **PLURALS**, p. 14.
- Raf'fa-el** (an Italian painter), distinguish from **Raph'a-el** (a Bible name).
- raf'fle** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raf'fled**, **raf'fing**.
- rag** (to annoy) *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **ragged**, **rag'ging**.
- rage** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raged**, **rag'ing**.
- ra-gout'**, not as it is pronounced *ragu*.
- raid**, **rail**, not *rade*, *rale* as they are pronounced.

**rain** (water from the clouds), distinguish from **reign** (to rule), and from **rein** (part of a harness).

**raise** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raised**, **rais'ing**. Distinguish from **RACE**, **RAYS**, and **RAZE**.

**rais'er** (one who or that which lifts), distinguish from **ra'zor** (a shaving instrument).

**rai'sin** (a dried grape), distinguish from **rais'ing** (lifting).

**rake** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **raked**, **rak'ing**.

**rak'ish**, not *rakeish*.

**Ra'leigh**, not *Rawley*, when referring to the famous English navigator Sir Walter *Raleigh*. Compare **RAYLEIGH**.

**ral'ly** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **ral'lied**, but *retains* it in the present participle **ral'ly-ing**.

**ram** doubles the *m* in forming the participles **rammed**, **ram'ming**, and in the noun **ram'mer**.

**ram'a-ble**, not *ramible*.

**ram'i-fy** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **ram'i-fied**, but *retains* it in the present participle **ram'i-fy'ing**.

**range** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ranged**, **rang'ing**, but *retains* it before *-able* in the adjective **range'a-ble**. See **-ABLE**, p. 5.

**ran'som**, not *ransum*.

**rap** (to strike), distinguish from **wrap** (to cover up or pack, as the body or a parcel).

**rap** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **rapped**, **rap'ping**.

**Raph'a-el** (a Bible name), distinguish from **Raf'fa-el** (an Italian painter).

**rare** drops the *e* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **rar'er**, **rar'est**.

**rar'e-fy**, not *rarify*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **rar'e-fied**, but *retains* it in the present participle **rar'e-fy'ing**.

**rasp'ber"ry**, not *razberry* as it is pronounced. Note the *p* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **P**.

**rat** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **rat'ted**, **rat'ting**, and before *-er* in the noun **rat'ter**.

**rat'a-ble** or **rate'a-ble**. Both forms are in use.

- ra-tan'**, **rat-tan'**. Both forms are in use, but the *second* is preferred.
- rate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rat'ed**, **rat'ing**.
- rat'i-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **rat'i-fied**, and before *-able* and *-er* in forming the adjectives **rat'i-fi'a-ble**, **rat'i-fi'er**, but retains it before *-ing* in **rat'i-fy'ing**.
- ra-toon'**, **rat-toon'**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.
- rat-teen'** (woolen goods), not *rattine*.
- rat'tle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rat'tled**, **rat'tling**.
- rav'age**, not *ravige*. This word drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rav'aged**, **rav'ag-ing**.
- rave** drops the *e* before *-ed*, and *-ing* in forming the participles **raved**, **rav'ing**.
- rav'el**. The participles of this verb are written **rav'eled** or **rav'elled**, **rav'el-ing** or **rav'el-ling**.
- rav'el-ing** (a thread or threads unraveled from a fabric), distinguish from **rave'lin** (an outwork of a fortification).
- rav'ing**, not *raveing*.
- Ray'leigh** (English scientist), distinguish from **Ra'leigh** (English navigator). See **RALEIGH**.
- rays** (beams of light), distinguish from **raze** (to tear down; destroy), from **race** (a course; a competitive trial of speed), and from **raise** (to lift up).
- ra'zor** (an implement for shaving), distinguish from **rais'er** (one who or that which lifts).
- reach** (to arrive at), distinguish from **retch** (to strain; heave). The first is pronounced as if written *reech*. See **EA**.
- read** (to peruse), distinguish from **reed** (a plant). Compare **RED**.
- read** (imperative of **READ**, learned: pronounced as if spelt *red*), distinguish from **red** (a color).
- read'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **read'i-er**, **read'i-est**.
- real** (true; genuine), distinguish from **reel** (to stagger).
- re'al-is'a-ble**, **re'al-i-sa'tion**, **re'al-ise**. Forms formerly in use in Great Britain now superseded by **REALIZABLE**, etc., which see.
- re'al-iz'a-ble**, not *realisable*.

**re"al-i-za'tion**, not *realisation*.

**re'al-ize**, not *realise*. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re'al-ized**, **re'al-iz'ing**.

**realm**, not *relm* as it is pronounced. See EA, p. 75.

**ream**, not *reem* as it is pronounced. See EA, p. 75.

**reap, rear, reason, reave**. In these words the digraph *ea* is pronounced as *e*. See EA, and SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

**reave** (to plunder; carry off), distinguish from *reeve* (to pass a rope through a block, hole, etc.). The participles of the former are **reaved** or **reft**, **reav'ing**. See EA, and SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

**re-bel'** doubles the *l* before *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*, *-ion*, and *-ious*, and its derivatives: **re-belled'**, **re-bel'ler**, **re-bel'ling**, **re-bel'lion**, **re-bel'lious**.

**re-buk'a-ble**, not *rebukeable*.

**re-buke'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-buked'**, **re-buk'ing**.

**re-but'** doubles the *t* before *-al*, *-ed*, *-er*, and *-ing*: **re-but'tal**, **re-but'ted**, **re-but'ter**, **re-but'ting**.

**re-cal'ci-trance**, not *recalcitrence*.

**re-cal'ci-trate** drops the final *e* before *-ant*, *-ed*, *-ing* and *-ion*: **re-cal'ci-trant**, **re-cal'ci-trat'ed**, **re-cal'ci-trat'ing**, **re-cal'ci-tra'tion**.

**re"ca-pit'u-late** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re"ca-pit'u-lat'ed**, **re"ca-pit'u-lat'ing**.

**re"ca-pit'u-la-to-ry**, not *recapitulatary*.

**re-cede'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-ced'ed**, **re-ced'ing**.

**re-cede'** (to move back; withdraw; give up), distinguish from **re-seed'** (to seed or sow again). See CEDE, p. 6.

**re-ceipt'** (an acknowledgment), distinguish from **re-seat'** (to seat again). See EI, p. 7.

**re-ceiv'a-ble**, not *receiveable* or *recievable*. See EI, p. 7.

**re-ceive'** drops the final *e* before *-ed*, *-er*, and *-ing* in **re-ceived'**, **re-ceiv'er**, **re-ceiv'ing**. See EI, p. 7.

**re'cent** (new; fresh), distinguish from **re-sent'** (to show displeasure or resentment).

**re-cep'ta-cle**, not *recepticle*.

**re-cep'ti-ble**, not *receptable*

**re-cher"ché**. A French word frequently used in English for "much sought; choice; rare," and often misspelt.

- rec'i-pe (a formula or medical prescription), distinguish from re-ceipt' (an acknowledgment).
- re-cip'i-ence, re-cip'i-en-cy, not *recipiance*, *recipiancy*.
- re-cip'i-ent, not *recipiant*.
- re-cip'ro-cate drops the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles re-cip'ro-cat'ed, re-cip'ro-cat'ing.
- rec'i-proc'i-ty, not *reciprocity*.
- re-cite' drops the final *e* before -al, -ed, and -ing in re-ci'tal; re-ci'ter, re-ci'ted, re-ci'ting.
- reck (to heed, to care), distinguish from wreck (ruin).
- re-claim' (to claim back; rescue; call back), distinguish from ré'clame' (advertising; publicity: a French word).
- rec'og-niz'a-ble, rec'og-nis'a-ble, re-cog'ni-zance, re-cog'ni-sance. All forms are in use but the *z*-forms prevail. See RECOGNIZE.
- rec'og-nize, rec'og-nise. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- rec'ol-lect' (to recall to memory), distinguish from re'-col-lect' (to collect again). Both words are spelled alike but pronounced differently.
- rec'om-mend', not *recommend*.
- rec'om-pense drops the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles rec'om-pensed, rec'om-pens'-ing.
- rec'on-cil'a-ble, rec'on-cile'a-ble. Both forms are in good use.
- rec'on-cil'a-bly, not *reconcileably*.
- rec'on-cile, not *reconsile*. The word drops its final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles rec'on-ciled, rec'on-cil'ing.
- rec'on-noi'ter, rec'on-noi'tre. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. The participles of the former are formed by adding -ed and -ing to the root-word, but in the latter the final *e* is dropped before -ed and -ing in forming them, rec'on-noi'tred, rec'on-noi'tring.
- re-course' (the right to exact payment), distinguish from re-source' (that which is resorted to for aid).
- rec're-ate (to relax; divert; refresh), distinguish from re'cre-ate' (to make over or create anew).
- rec'ti-fy changes the *y* to *i* before -ed in forming the past participle rec'ti-fied, and before -cation and -er in rec'ti-fi-ca'tion, rec'ti-fi'er.

**re-cum'ben-cy**, not *recumbancy*.

**re-cum'bent**, not *recumbant*.

**re-cur'** doubles the final *r* in all its derivatives **re-curred'**, **re-cur'ence**, **re-cur'ren-cy**, **re-cur'rent** and **re-cur'ring**.

**re-cure'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-cured'**, **re-cur'ing**, but retains it before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-cure'a-ble**. Compare **RECURRABLE**.

**re-cur'ra-ble**, not *recurable*. See **REQUIRE**.

**red** (one of the primary colors), distinguish from **read** (past tense of **READ**), pronounced *red*.

**red** doubles the *d* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as, *-ed*, *-er*, *-en*, *-ing*, and *-ish* in **red'ded**, **red'der**, **red'den**, **red'den-ing**, **red'ding**, **red'dish**.

**red'dish** (somewhat red), distinguish from **rad'ish** (a vegetable with a pungent root).

**red'dle** is preferred to **rad'dle** and **rud'dle**, for red ocher, a pigment.

**re-doubt'a-ble**, not *redoubtible* or *redoutable*. Note that the *b* is silent. See **REDOUT**, and **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2.

**re-dout'**, **re-doubt'**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred by modern dictionaries. The *b* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2.

**re-duce'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-reduced'**, **re-duc'ing**.

**re-duc'i-ble**, not *reducable* or *reduceable*.

**re-dun'dance**, not *re-dun'dence*.

**re-dun'dant**, not *redundent*.

**re-dun'dant-ly**, not *redundently*.

**reed** (a long grass-like plant), distinguish from **read** (to peruse, pronounced *reed*).

**reek** (to expose to smoke or steam; also, steam, vapor), distinguish from **wreak** (to inflict vengeance on).

**reel** (to stagger), distinguish from **real** (true; genuine).

**reencounter**. Misspelling of **RENCOUNTER**.

**re'en-force'**, **re'in-force'**. Both forms are in use. See **ENFORCE**. The final *e* is dropped in forming the participles **re'en-(or in-)forced'**, **re'en-(or in-)forc'ing**.

**reeve** (to pass a rope through a block, hole, etc.), distinguish from **reave** (to carry off; plunder). The participles of the former are **reeved** or **rove**, **reev'ing**.

**re-fer'** doubles the final *r* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-ferred'**, **re-fer'ring**.

- ref'er-a-ble, re-fer'ri-ble. Both forms are used; not *referrable* which is obsolete.
- ref'er-ee' (one referred to), distinguish from rev'er-ie (day-dreaming).
- ref'er-ence, not *referance* or *referrence*.
- ref'er-en'dum, not *referendum*.
- re-fine' drops the final *e* before -able, -age, -ed, -er, -ery, -ing in forming the words re-fin'a-ble, re-fin'age, re-fined', re-fin'er, re-fin'er-y, re-fin'ing, but retains it in re-fine'ment.
- re-flec'tion is sometimes spelt re-flex'ion, but the first prevails.
- re-flex'i-ble, not *reflexable*.
- re-frac'tor, not *refracter*.
- re-frac'to-ry, not *refractory*.
- ref'ra-ga-ble (that can be refuted), distinguish from re-fran'gi-ble (capable of being refracted or deflected, as light), not *refrangible*.
- re-frig'er-ant, not *refrigerent*.
- re-frig'er-a"tor, not *refrigerater*.
- re-fuse' drops the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in re-fus'a-ble, re-fus'al, re-fused', re-fus'ing.
- re-fute' drops the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in re-fut'a-ble, re-fut'al, ref'u-ta'tion, re-fu'ta-to-ry, re-fut'ed, re-fut'ing.
- re'gal (fit for a king or queen; royal), distinguish from re-gale' (to entertain like a king; feast).
- re-ga'li-a, not *regalea*.
- re'gen-cy changes *y* to *i* and -es is added in forming the plural re'gen-cies.
- reg'i-men (a systematized course of living), distinguish from reg'i-ment (a body of soldiers).
- reg'nant, not *regnent*.
- re-gret' doubles the *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in re-gret'ta-ble, re-gret'ted, re-gret'ting.
- reg'u-lar, not *reglar*.
- reg'u-late drops the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in reg'u-lat'ed, reg'u-lat'ing, reg'u-la'tion, reg'u-la"tive.
- reg'u-la"tor, not *regulater*.

**re-hearse'** drops the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as in **re-hears'a-ble**, **re-hears'al**, **re-hearsed'**, **re-hears'er**, **re-hears'ing**. Note that in these words medial *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

**reign** (rule; govern), distinguish from **rein** (I. *n.* A part of a harness; II. *v.* To hold in check), and from **rain** (water from the clouds). See G.

**re'im-burse'**, not *reemburse*. So also with its derivatives **re'im-burse'ment**, **re'im-burs'er**.

**Reims**, not *Rheims*: an erroneous spelling. The name of the city is derived from the name of the *Remi*, a Belgic tribe who founded it. The French consistently spell it *Reims*.

**rein**. Distinguish from REIGN.

**re'in-force'**. See REINFORCE.

**re-joice'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-joyced'**, **re-joic'ing**, NOT *rejoiceing*.

**re-lapse'**, **re-late'**, **re-lease'** all drop the final *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-able*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*.

**re-lat'er**, **re-lat'or**. Both forms are in use, but the latter is restricted to the practise of law

**re-lax'a-ble**, not *relaxible*.

**re-leaf'** (to leaf again), distinguish from **re-lief'** (the act of relieving). See EA, p. 75, and EI and IE under SILENT LETTERS, pp. 3 and 9.

**re-lease'** drops the final *e* before *-able*, *-ed* and *-ing*, as in **re-leas'a-ble** (not *-ible*), **re-leased'**, **re-leas'ing**. See EA, p. 75.

**rel'e-vant**, not *relevant*.

**re-li'a-ble**, **re-li'ance**. Derivatives of RELY in which the *y* changes to *i* before a suffix beginning with a vowel. See RELY.

**re-lief** (the act of relieving), distinguish from **re-lieve** (to free wholly or partly). See IE, p. 9.

**re-ly'** changes *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **re-ried'** (see RELIABLE), but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **re-ly'ing**.

**rem'e-dy** changes *y* to *i* before *-able*, *-al*, and *-ed*, as in **re-me'di-a-ble**, **re-me'di-al**, **rem'e-died**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in **rem'e-dy-ing**.

**rem'e-dy** changes *y* to *i* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **rem'e-dies**.



- re-mem'ber**, derived from the French *resembler*, changes its form when followed by *-ance*, *-ancer*, dropping the *e* from the last syllable, as in **re-mem'brance**, **re-mem'bran-cer**.
- rem'i-nis'cence**, not *remenisence*.
- rem'i-nis'cent**, not *remaniscent*.
- re-mis'si-ble**, not *remissable*.
- re-mit'** doubles the *t* before a suffix beginning with a vowel as *-able*, *-ance*, *-ed*, *-ent*, *-er*, *-ing*, and *-or*, as in **re-mit'ta-ble**, **re-mit'tance**, **re-mit'ted**, **re-mit'tent**, **re-mit'ter**, **re-mit'ting**, **re-mit'tor**.
- re-mit'ta-ble**, not *remittible*.
- re-mit'tance**, not *remittance*.
- re-move'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-mov'ed**, **re-mov'ing**, and before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-mov'a-ble**.
- Re-nais'sance'** is preferred to **re-nas'cence**.
- ren-coun'ter**, not *reencounter*.
- ren'dez-vous**. Note the *z* and the *s* in this word, the presence of which is not indicated in modern American pronunciation. Not *rendevous*.
- ren'o-vate** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ren'o-vat'ed**, **ren'o-vat'ing**.
- re-pair'**, not *repare*.
- rep'a-ra-ble**, **re-pair'a-ble**. Both forms are in good use.
- rep'a-ra-bly**, not *repairably*.
- rep'a-ra'tion**, not *repairation* or *reparation*.
- re-pel'** doubles the *l* in forming the participles **re-pel'led**, **re-pel'ling**.
- re-pel'lence**, not *repellance*.
- re-pel'lent**, not *repellant*.
- re-pent'ance**, not *repentense*.
- rep'er-toire'**. A French word of which the equivalent in English is **rep'er-to'ry**.
- re-place'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-plac'ed**, **re-plac'ing**.
- re-place'a-ble**, not *replacible*.
- re-plev'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-able* in forming the adjective **re-plev'i-a-ble**, and before *-ed* in forming the past participle **re-plev'ied**.
- rep'li-ca**, not *replicca* or *repplica*.
- re-ply'** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **re-plied**, but retains it in the present participle **re-ply'ing**.

- re-port'or-i-al, not *repetorial*.  
 rep<sup>r</sup>re-hen'si-ble, not *reprehensible*.  
 rep<sup>r</sup>re-hen'so-ry, not *reprehensery*.  
 re-prieve', not *repreive*. See IE, p. 9. This verb *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles re-prieved', re-priev'ing.  
 re-pris'al, not *reprizal*.  
 re-proach'. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.  
 re-proof' (an admonition or censure), distinguish from re-prove' (to express disapproval of).  
 re-prov'a-ble, not *reproveable*.  
 rep'tile, not *reptil*.  
 re-pug'nance, not *repugnence*.  
 re-pug'nant, not *repugnent*.  
 re-pute' *drops* the final *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective rep'u-ta-ble, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles re-put'ed, re-put'ing.  
 re-quest'er, not *requestor*.  
 re'qui-em. Note that the word is pronounced as if written *ree'qui-em* or *rek'wi-em* but not so spelled. See Q.  
 re-quire' *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles re-quired', re-quir'ing, and before *-able* in forming the adjective re-quir'a-ble. See Q.  
 req'ui-site, not *requisit*. See Q.  
 re-quite' *drops* the final *e* before *-able* and *-al* in re-quit'a-ble and re-quit'al, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles re-quit'ed, re-quit'ing. See Q.  
 re-scind'. Note that the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.  
 re-scis'sion, not *recission*. Note that the *c* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2.  
 res'cue *drops* the final *e* before *-able* in forming the adjective res'cu-a-ble, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles res'cued, res'cu-ing.  
 re-search', not *reserch* as pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See EA, p. 75.  
 re-seat' (to seat again), distinguish from re-ceipt' (to make an acknowledgment).  
 re-sem'ble *drops* the final *e* before *-ance* in forming the noun re-sem'blance—not *resemblence*, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles re-sem'bled, re-sem'bling.

- re-sent'** (to show resentment). Note that the *s* is sounded as *z*. Distinguish from **re'cent** (new; fresh).
- re-side'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-sid'ed**, **re-sid'ing**.
- res'i-dence** (a dwelling), distinguish from **res'i-dents** (inhabitants).
- re-sign'**, not *rezine* as it is pronounced, or *resine*; the *g* being silent. There are two words of this spelling; the first means to give up or retire from; the second, to sign again.
- re'sin** (semi-liquid exudation of the pine-tree), distinguish from **ro'sin** (solid product of turpentine).
- re-sis'tance**, not *resistence*.
- re-sist'i-ble**, not *resistable*.
- re-solv'a-ble**, not *resolveable*.
- re-source'** (available property), distinguish from **re-course'** (the right to exact payment).
- re-spon'si-ble**, not *responsable*.
- rest** (peace; quiet), distinguish from **wrest** (to twist; to wrench), of which the *w* is silent.
- res'tau-rant**, not *restorant*.
- re-stor'a-tive**, not *restaurative*.
- ré'su'mé'** (a recapitulation or summary; a French word), distinguish from **re-sume'** (to begin again).
- re-sus'ci-tate**, not *resusitate*.
- re-tal'i-a-to-ry**, not *retaliatory*.
- retch** (to try to vomit), distinguish from **wretch** (a despicable person), of which the *w* is silent.
- ret'i-cence**, not *reticence*.
- ret'i-cule** (a small net bag), distinguish from **rid'i-cule** (derision).
- re-treat'**. Note that the *a* is silent. See MA.
- re-trieve'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-trieved'**, **re-triev'ing**. See M, p. 9.
- re-triev'a-ble**, not *retrieveable*.
- Reu'ben**, not *Ruben*.
- rev'eil-le**, not *revely* as pronounced. Alternative forms of French origin are **re-veil'lé'**, **re-veil'lée'**.
- rev'el**. The participles of this verb are written **rev'eled** or **rev'elled**, **rev'el-ing** or **rev'el-ling**.
- re-venge'ful**, not *revengeful*.
- re-veng'ing**, not *revengeing*.
- re-ver'e'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-ver'ed'**, **re-ver'ing**.

**rev'er-end** (worthy of reverence, as a clergyman), distinguish from **rev'er-ent** (having a feeling of reverence for).

**rev'er-ie**, **rev'er-y**. Both forms are in good use.

**re-ver'se** drops the final *e* before *-able*, *-al*, *-ed*, *-ible*, *-ing* in **re-vers'a-ble**, **re-vers'ed**, **re-ver'si-ble**, **re-ver'sing**.

**re-ver'sion-a-ry**, not *reversionery*.

**re-vert'i-ble**, not *revertable*.

**re-vise'** not *revize*.

**re-vi'sion-a-ry**, not *revisionery*.

**rev'o-ca-ble** is preferred to **re-vok'a-ble** or **re-voke'a-ble**.

**re-volve'** drops the final *e* before *-able* in the adjective **re-volv'a-ble**, not *revolveable*, and before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **re-volved'**, **re-volv'ing**.

**rh.** A digraph that occurs in words derived from the Greek. See **H** and **R**. *H* is always silent when it follows *r* at the beginning of a word, as in *rhapsody*, *rhetoric*, *rhythm*, etc., and elsewhere in the same syllable, as *scirrhous*. It is also silent when a final letter, as in *ah*, *hallelujah*, *catarrh*, *myrrh*, etc.

**rhap'so-dy** is derived from the Greek *rhapto*, sew and *ōde*, ode. Note the *h* which is silent (see **RH**). The *y* changes to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **rhap'so-dies**.

**Rheims**. Common misspelling of **Reims**, which see.

**rhe'o-stat**, from the Greek *rheo*, flow and *statos* standing.

Note the *h* which is silent. See **RH**.

**rhet'o-ric**, **rheu'ma-tism**, **rhi-ni'tis**, **rhi-noc'e-ros**.

All words derived from the Greek in which the *h* is silent in English. See **RH**.

**Rhone** (a river in southern France), distinguish from **roan** (a dark color), and **rown** (impelled by oars).

**rhu'barb**, not *rubarb*.

**rhyme**. Misspelling of **rime** which see.

**rhythm**, not *rythm*.

**ryth'mic**, not *rythmic*.

**rice** (a cereal), distinguish from **rise** (to ascend).

**ric'o-chet'**. The participles of this verb are written **ric'o-chet'ed** or **ric'o-chet'ted**; **ric'o-chet'ing** or **ric'o-chet'ting**.

**rid'i-cule** (derision) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rid'i-culed**, **rid'i-cul'ing**. Distinguish from **ret'i-cule** (a small net bag).

**ri-dic'u-lous**, not *rediculous*.

*Re-diculous*, madam? I suppose you mean *ridiculous*: let me have no more of that. *Swift Journal to Stella*, Dec. 14, 1710.

**rig'ger** (a fitter of ships; rigging), distinguish from **rig'or** (muscular rigidity).

**right** (correct; true), distinguish from **rite** (a ceremony), or from **wright** (a mechanic), and from **write** (to inscribe).

**rime**, not *rhyme* which is incorrect, the word being derived from the Anglo-Saxon *riman*, count; and from *rim*, number.

**ring** (to sound; a circle), distinguish from **wring** (to twist).

**rinse** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rinsed**, **rins'ing**.

**Ri'o de Ja-nei'ro**. Note the spelling of the second syllable of *Janeiro*. It is spelt *nei* but pronounced *ne*.

**ri'ot** (tumult), distinguish from **ry'ot** (tiller of the soil).

**rip** doubles the *p* in the participles **ripped**, **rip'ping**.

**ris'i-ble**, not *risable*.

**rite**. Distinguish from **RIGHT**, **WRIGHT**, and **WRITE**.

**ri'val**. The participles of the verb are written **ri'valed** or **ri'valled**, **ri'val-ing** or **ri'val-ling**.

**riv'et**. The participles of this verb are written **riv'et-ed** or **riv'et-ted**, **riv'et-ing** or **riv'et-ting**.

**road**, **roam**, **roan**. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. Compare **LOAD**, **LOAM**, **LOAN**, and see **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1.

**road** (a highway or street), distinguish from **rode** (past tense of **RIDE**), and from **rowed** (past tense of **ROW**).

**roam** (to wander), distinguish from **Rome** (the capital of Italy).

**roan**. Distinguish from **RHONE** and **ROWN**.

**roar**. A word of one syllable pronounced as if spelt *rore*. Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **raw** (uncooked; crude). See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1.

**rob** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **rob'bed**, **rob'bing**.

**robe** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rob'ed**, **rob'ing**.

**roe** (a female deer), distinguish from **row** (a tier).

**roes** (female deer), distinguish from **rose** (a flower).

**rôle** (a part in a play), distinguish from **roll** (1. A register. 2. To rotate).

**Rome**. Distinguish from **ROAM**.

**rood** (fourth part of an acre), distinguish from **rude** (rough; uncultivated).

**roof** as a noun takes *s* to form the plural, but the verb forms its participles by adding *-ed* and *-ing*: **roofed**, **roof'ing**.

**root** (as of a plant), distinguish from **route** (direction; way).

**root'ed** (with the roots grown in), distinguish from **rout'ed** (sent by a specified direction).

**rose** (a flower), distinguish from **roes** (female deer, *pl.*).

**ros'in**. Distinguish from **RESIN**.

**rote** (mechanical repetition), distinguish from **wrote** (past tense of **WRITE**).

**rough** (uneven; rude), distinguish from **ruff** (an article of

**rouse** (to stir up), distinguish from **rows** (noisy disturbances). The verb **rouse** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **roused**, **rous'ing**.

**route** (direction; way), distinguish from **root** (as of a plant), and from **rout** (pronounced to rime with *shout*—to remove, as uneven or waste metal, from a plate). The verb **route** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rout'ed**, **rout'ing**, **NOT routeing**.

**rout'ed** (sent by a specified direction; as *routed* via Denver), distinguish from **root'ed** (with roots grown in).

**rou-tine'**, not *ruteen* as pronounced.

**rout'ing**, not *routeing*.

**row** (a tier), distinguish from **roe** (a female deer or the spawn of fish).

**rowed** (did *row*), distinguish from **road** (a highway or a street), and **rode** (did *ride*).

**rown**. Distinguish from **RHONE** and **ROAN**.

**rows**. Distinguish from **ROUSE**.

**ru'ble**, **rou'ble**. Both are in use, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**ruch'ing**, not *rucheing*.

**rude**. Distinguish from **rood**.

**rue** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rued**, **ru'ing**, **NOT rueing**.

**rues** (repents), distinguish from **ruse** (a trick; cunning).

**ruff**. Distinguish from **ROUGH**.

**rug'ged**, not *ruged*.

**ru'l'a-ble**, not *rule'a-ble*.

- rule** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ruled**, **ru'ing**.  
**ru'mor**, **ru'mour**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.  
**run** doubles the *n* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **run'ning**. The past participle is **ran**.  
**rung** (sounded), distinguish from **wrung** (twisted).  
**ruse** (a trick; cunning), distinguish from **rues** (repents).  
**rus'ty** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **rust'i-er**, **rust'i-est**.  
**rut** doubles the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **rut'ted**, **rut'ting**.  
**ru'ta-ba'ga**, not *rootabayga* as it is pronounced.  
**rye** (a grain), distinguish from **wry** (crooked).  
**ry'ot** (a tiller of the soil), distinguish from **ri'ot** (tumult).  
**ryme**, **rythm**, etc. Misspellings of **RIME**, **RHYTHM**.

## S

- s**. The printed *s* following a vowel or a voiced consonant is generally pronounced *z* as in *bobs*, *cars*, *does*, *boxes*, but there are many exceptions as in *this*, *thus*, *house*. See **Z**. Common substitutes for *s* are *c* (before any high vowel), *ce* for final, *sc*, *se*; *racy*, *race*, *scent*, *tense*. At the end of a monosyllable *s* is generally doubled: *mass*, *less*, *miss*. See **S**, pp. 3 and 11.
- Sab'a-oth** (armies, hosts). Distinguish from **sab'bath** (the seventh day of the week).
- sa'ber**, **sa'bre**. Both spellings are in use; the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- sa'bot'**. Note that the *t* is silent.
- sa'bo'tage'**, not *sabotige*. Note that the *t* is *not* silent.
- sac'cha-rin**, not *sacarin* or *sacharin*, but the form **sac'-cha-rine** is frequently used.
- sac'ra-ment**, not *sacriment*.
- sac'ri-fice**, not *sacrafice*.
- sac'ri-lege**, not *sacralege* or *sacriledge*.
- sac'ri-le'gious**, not *sacreligious*.
- sad** doubles the *d* in forming the comparative or superlative **sad'der**, **sad'dest**.
- sad'dle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sad'dled**, **sad'dling**.
- safe** retains the final *e* before *-ty*, **safe'ty**.
- sa-ga'cious**, not *sagaceous*.

**sail** (one of a ship's canvas sheets), distinguish from **sale** (the act of selling).

**sail'er** (a thing that sails), distinguish from **sail'or** (a mariner).

**saith** (said), distinguish from **Seth** (a masculine personal name).

**sal'a-ble**, not *saleable*.

**sa-la'cious**, not *salaceous*.

**sal'a-ry** (wages), distinguish from **cel'er-y** (a plant).

**sal'a-ry** changes the *y* to *i* in forming the plural **sal'a-ries**.

**sale**. Distinguish from **SAIL**.

**sal'e-ra'tus**, not *salaratus*.

**Salis'bur-y**, not *Salisbury* as it is pronounced.

**sal'ly** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sal'lied**, **sal'ly-ing**.

**salm**, **salter**, **seudonym**, **sora**, **soriasis**, **sychic**, **sychology**. Misspellings of **PSALM**, **PSALTER**, **PSEUDONYM**, **PSORA**, **PSORIASIS**, **PSYCHIC**, **PSYCHOLOGY**.

**salm'on**. The *l* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 11.

**salt'er** (one who sells salt), distinguish from **Psal'ter** (the book of psalms).

**salt'pe'ter**, **salt'pe'tre**. Both forms are in use.

**sal'u-ta-ry**, not *salutory*.

**sa-lute'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sa-lut'ed**, **sa-lut'ing**.

**sal'vage** (the saving of a ship from wreck), not *salvedge*.

Distinguish from **sel'vage** (the edge of a woven fabric).

**san'a-to'ri-um**, **san'i-ta'ri-um**. Both forms are in use.

Distinguish from **san'i-to'ri-um**, a corrupt spelling.

**san'a-to-ry** (curative of health), distinguish from **san'i-ta-ry** (preservative of health).

**sane** (sound; healthy), distinguish from **Seine** (a river in France).

**sand'wich**. Note the *d* that is frequently omitted when the word is incorrectly pronounced.

**san'gui-na-ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ly* and *-ness* in **san'gui-na-ri-ly**, **san'gui-na-ri-ness**.

**san-guin'e-ous**, not *sanguinious*.

**san'i-ta-ry**. Distinguish from **SANATORY**.

**sap** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sapped**, **sap'ping**.

**Saph'o**, **Sap'pho**. Both forms are in use, but the second is preferred.



- sa-pon'i-fy** *changes the y to i before -ed in forming the past participle sa-pon'i-fied, but retains it before -ing in the present sa-pon'i-fy'ing.*
- sap'phire**, not *saphire* or *saf'fire*.
- sar-don'ic** (insincere), distinguish from **sar'do-nyx** (a variety of onyx).
- Sar'gent** (a family name), distinguish from **ser'geant** (a military officer).
- sar'sa-pa-ril'la**, not *sasparilla*.
- sarse'net**, not *sarcenette*.
- Sas-katch'e-wan**. A province, river, and town in Canada.
- Sas'ka-toon'**, not *Saskatune*.
- sas'sa-fras**, not *sasafras*.
- Sas'se-nach**, not *Sasanack*. The word is from the Gaelic *Sasunnach*, Saxon.
- sat'el-lite**, not *satalite*.
- sat'ire** (a painted poem), distinguish from **sat'yr** (a sylvan god).
- sat'i-rize**, **sat'i-rise**. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- sat'is-fy** *changes the y to i before -ed in forming the past participle sat'is-fied, but retains it before -ing in the present participle sat'is-fy'ing.*
- sauce** (a relish), distinguish from **source** (origin).
- Sault Sainte Marie**. Pronounced as if spelled *Soo Saint Mary*.
- sau'sage**, not *saussage*.
- sav'a-ble**, **save'a-ble**. Both forms are used, but the first is the original and the preferred form.
- sa-van'na** (a treeless plain), distinguish from **Sa-van'nah** (a city in Georgia).
- sa'vant'**. Please note that the *t* is silent.
- save** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **saved**, **sav'ing**.
- sav'er** (one who saves), distinguish from **sa'vor** (flavor)—the form **sa'vour** is used in Great Britain.
- Sav'ior**, **Sav'ior**. Both forms are in use.
- saw** (a toothed cutting-instrument), distinguish from **sore** (a bodily hurt or injury).
- sawed** (having been cut with a saw), distinguish from **SOARED** and **SWORD**.
- sc** is a common substitute for *s* in English words as in *scene*, *scent*, *scintillate*, etc.

**scald** (to burn with hot water), distinguish from **scold** (to reprove).

**scale** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scaled**, **scal'ing**.

**sca'lene**, not *scaleen*.

**scan'dal-ise**, **scan'dal-ize**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

**scan'sion**, not *scanshon*.

**scant'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **scant'i-er**, **scant'i-est**.

**scene** (part of a play; a view), distinguish from **seen** (beheld).

**scent** (an odor), distinguish from **cent** (a small coin), **sent** (did send)

**scep'ter**, **scep'tre**. Both forms are in use.

**scep'tic**, **scep'ti-cal**, **scep'ti-cism**. These words have alternative forms, **skeptic**, **skeptical**, etc., which see.

**sched'ule**. Pronounced as if spelled *skedule* in the United States or *shedule* in Great Britain. See CH, p. 52.

**scheme**. Pronounced as if spelled *skeem*. See CH, p. 52.

**schism**, not *sizm* as pronounced. See CH, p. 52.

**schist**, not *shist* as it is pronounced. See CH, p. 52.

**schol'ar**, **school**, **schoon'er**. In these words and their derivatives the *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See CH, p. 52.

**sci-at'i-ca**. The *c* in the first syllable is silent. See sc.

**sci'ence**. The *c* in the first syllable is silent. See sc.

**Scil'ly** (a group of islands southwest of England), distinguish from **sil'ly** (simple; foolish).

**sci'o-list**, **sci'on**, **scis'sors**, **scis'sure**. Note that the *c* in these words is silent. See sc.

**scis'sored**, not *scissared*. The Shakespearean spelling noted below is obsolete.

*Unscissar'd shall this hair of mine remain  
Though I show ill in 't.*

SHAKESPEARE *Pericles*, act. iii, sc. 3.

**scle-ro'sis**, not *sklerosis* as pronounced.

**scold** (to reprove), distinguish from **scald** (to burn with water).

**score** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scored**, **scor'ing**.

**scrab'ble** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scrab'bled**, **scrab'bling**.

**scrape** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scraped**, **scrap'ing**.

- scrawl** (bad writing), distinguish from **scroll** (a roll of paper).
- scrub** *doubles* the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scrubbed**, **scrub'bing**.
- scru'ple** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scru'pled**, **scru'pling**.
- scru'ti-nize**, not *scrutinise*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **scru'ti-nized**, **scru'ti-niz'ing**.
- scull** (a small boat; a spoon-oar), distinguish from **skull** (that part of the head that encloses the brain).
- sculp'tor** (a carver), distinguish from **sculp'ture** (a carving).
- scum** *doubles* the *m* before *-ed*, and *-ing* in forming the participles **scummed**, **scum'ming**.
- scur'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **scur'ried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **scur'ry-ing**.
- scur'vy** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **scur'vi-er**, **scur'vi-est**.
- scythe**. Note that the *c* is silent. See **SC**.
- sea** (a great body of salt water), distinguish from **see** (to behold).
- seal** (an animal), distinguish from **ceil** (to furnish with a ceiling).
- seam** (a line made by the junction of parts), distinguish from **seem** (appear).
- seam** (to join by sewing), distinguish from **seem** (to appear).
- sear**, **sere** (to dry, burn or wither). Both forms are used, but the first prevails. Distinguish from **cere** (to wax) and from **seer** (a prophet).
- search**. Note that the *a* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**.
- seas** (plural of **SEA**), distinguish from **cease** (to stop) and from **seize** (to take hold of).
- sea'son** (to flavor), distinguish from **sei'zin** (take possession).
- se-cede'**, not *seceed*. Compare **SUCCEED** and **see -EDE**, p. 6. The word *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **seced'ed**, **se-ced'ing**.
- se-ces'sion**, not *sessession*.
- se-clude'** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **se-clud'ed**, **se-clud'ing**.

**sec're-ta-ry** *changes the y to i and es is added in forming the plural sec're-ta-ries, but retains the y before -ship in sec're-ta-ry-ship.*

**se-crete'**, not *secreet*. Compare DISCREET.

**sects** (dissenting religious bodies), distinguish from **sex** (physical difference between male and female).

**se-cure'** *drops the final e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles se-cured', se-cur'ing, but retains it before -ly in forming the adverb se-cure'ly.*

**se-date'**, not *seedate*.

**sed'en-ta-ry**, not *sedentery*.

**sed'i-ment**, not *sedament*.

**se-duce'** *drops the final e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles se-duced', se-duc'ing.*

**see**. Distinguish from **SEA**.

**seed** (to sow with seed), distinguish from **cede** (to give up).

**seel** (to close the eyes; blind), distinguish from **seal** (to stamp with a seal; also, to close).

**seem**. Distinguish from **SEAM**.

**seen** (beheld), distinguish from **scene** (a view; also, a section of a play).

**seer** (a prophet), distinguish from **cere** (to wax), **sear** (to burn the surface).

**Seid'litz**, not *Sedlitz*.

**seige**. Misspelling of **SIEGE**.

**se'i'gnior** (a nobleman), distinguish from **se'nior** (the elder).

**seine** (1. A fishing-net. 2. [S-] A river in France), distinguish from **sane** (sound; healthy).

**seis'mic**. Note the first syllable in which the *e* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 7, and E.

**seize** (to take hold of), distinguish from **cease** (to stop), **seas** (plural of **SEA**). The verb **seize** *drops the final e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles seized, seiz'ing, and before -able in forming the adjective seiz'a-ble.*

**sei'zin** (property, as land), distinguish from **sea'son** (to flavor).

**self** *changes the f to v and adds es to form the plural selves.*

**sell** (dispose of by sale), distinguish from **cell** (a small chamber). The past participle of **sell** is irregular—**sold**, the present participle is regular—**sell'ing**.

**sellable**. Misspelling of **SALABLE**.

**sell'er** (one who sells), distinguish from **cel'lar** (a room underground).

- sel'vage** (an edge of a woven fabric), distinguish from **sal'vage** (the saving of a ship).
- sem'a-phore**, not *semafore*.
- sem'i-na-ry**, not *semanary*.
- se-nes'cence**, not *senesence*.
- se-nes'cent**, not *senascent*. See **NASCENT**.
- se'nior**. Distinguish from **SEIGNIOR**.
- se-ñor'** (a Spanish title of address), distinguish from **se-nhor'** (a Portuguese title of address), and from **si'gnor** (Anglicized form of the Italian title of address, *signore*).
- sense** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sensed**, **sens'ing**.
- sen'si-ble**, not *senseable* or *sensable*.
- sen'si-tive**, not *sensative*.
- sen'su-al** (lewd; carnal), distinguish from **sen'su-ous** (appealing to the feelings).
- sent** (did send), distinguish from **cent** (a small coin), and from **scent** (a perfume or odor).
- sen'tence**, not *sentense*. Compare **TENSE**.
- sen-ten'tious**, not *sentencious*.
- sen'ti-ent**, not *sentiant*.
- sen'try** (a guard), distinguish from **cen'tau-ry** (a plant), and from **cen'tu-ry** (a hundred years).
- sep'a-ra-ble**, not *seperable*.
- sep'a-rate**, not *seperate*, a very common error. See the following.
- sep'a-rate** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sep'a-rat'ed**, **sep'a-rat'ing**, but retains it before *-ly* and *-ness* in **sep'a-rate-ly**, **sep'a-rate-ness**.
- sep'a-ra'tion**, not *seperation*.
- sep'a-ra'tor**, not *separater* or *seperater*.
- sep-ten'ni-al**, not *septenneal*.
- sep'ul-cher**, **sep'ul-chre**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- se-ques'ter**, not *sequestre*.
- Se-quoi'a**, not *sequoya*.
- se-ra'glio**. Note that the *g* is silent in English. The word is derived from the Italian *serraglio*, but in English retains only one *r*, and is pronounced as if spelt *seraglio*.
- sere**. Distinguish from **CERE** and **SEER**.
- se-rene'**, not *sereen*.

- serf** (a peasant, slave or bondman), distinguish from **surf** (the swell of the sea breaking on the shore).
- serge** (a woolen cloth), distinguish from **surge** (a wave; a rolling motion).
- ser'geant** (a military officer), distinguish from **Sar'gent** (a personal name).
- se'ri-al** (a connected succession), distinguish from **ce're-al** (a grain).
- se'ries** (succession), distinguish from **ce're-ous** (waxen), **se'ri-ous** (grave; solemn), **Sir'i-us** (a star).
- ser'rate** (formed like a saw), distinguish from **ce'rate** (a salve).
- serve** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **served**, **serv'ing**, but *retains* it in forming the adjective **ser'vice-a-ble** and its derivatives **ser'vice-a-bly**, **ser'vice-a-ble-ness**.
- ses'sion** (the time during which a deliberative assembly remains sitting), distinguish from **ces'sion** (surrender; assignment).
- set** doubles the *t* in forming the present participle **set'ting** and the noun **set'ter**. The past participle is **set**.
- Seth** (a man's name), distinguish from **saith** (said).
- set'tle** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **set'tled**, **set'tling**, but *retains* it before *-ment* in forming the noun **settle'ment**.
- Sev'ille** (a city in Spain), distinguish from **civ'il** (obliging; kind).
- sew** (to fasten with needle and thread), distinguish from **so** (in such a manner), and from **sow** (to scatter seed).
- sew'age** (waste matter carried off in sewers), distinguish from **sew'er-age** (a system of sewers).
- sew'er** (a drain), distinguish from **su'er** (one who sues).
- sex** (male or female), distinguish from **sects** (bodies of religious dissenters).
- sfere, sferic, sferoid, sfincter, sfinx.** Misspellings of **SPHERE, SPHERIC**, etc., see under **SPHERE**.
- sh.** This digraph is the sign of the elementary sound closing in *wish*, opening in *she*. It is represented in the common spelling by: (1) *sh*, as in *show, shadow, wash*, etc.; (2) *st, ss, s(e), sc(i)*, before an unaccented vowel, as in *pension, Asia, nauseate, conscience*, so in *sugar, issue*, etc.; (3) *ti*, before an unaccented vowel, as in *partial, patient, nation*, etc.; (4) *c(i), ce, che*, before an unaccented vowel, as in *provincial, ancient, vicious*

etc., *ocean*, etc., *luncheon*, etc. If *sh* sounds of this sort occur in two successive syllables, the former is often sounded *s*, as in "pronunciation"; (5) *ch* after *l*, *r* final, as in *filch*, *pinch*, pronounced *sh* by British authorities, and in many strange words mainly from the French, as *champagne*, *charade*, *chevalier*, etc., *capuchin*, *machine*, etc. Compare *ch*.

**shab'by** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shab'bi-er**, **shab'bi-est**, and also before *-ly* and *-ness* as in **shab'bi-ly**, **shab'bi-ness**.

**shack'le** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shack'led**, **shack'ling**.

**shade** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shad'ed**, **shad'ing**.

**shad'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shad'i-er**, **shad'i-est**, and also before *-ly* and *-ness* in **shad'i-ly**, **shad'i-ness**.

**shag** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **shagged**, **shag'ging** and the adjective **shag'gy** which changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the participles **shag'gi-er**, **shag'gi-est**.

**shake**. The parts of this verb are irregular: **shook**, **shak'en**, **shak'ing**. The adjective **shak'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shak'i-er**, **shak'i-est**, and the derivatives **shak'i-ly**, **shak'i-ness**.

**sham** doubles the *m* in forming the participles **shammed**, **sham'ming** and the noun **sham'mer**.

**shame** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shamed**, **sham'ing**, but retains it before *-ful*, *-less*, *-ly*, and *-ness* in **shame'ful**, **shame'less**, **shame'ful-ly**, **shame'ful-ness**.

**sham-poo'** retains both final vowels before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sham-poo'ed**, **sham-poo'-ing**, and before *-er* in the noun **sham-poo'er**.

**shape** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shaped**, **shap'ing**. A past-participial form occasionally used is **shap'en**.

**share** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the past participles **shared**, **shar'ing**.

**shave** drops the *e* before *-ed*, *-en*, and *-ing* in forming the parts of the verb as **shaved**, **shav'en**, **shav'ing**.

**shawl** (a large square wrap of cloth), distinguish from **shoal** (shallow).

**sheaf** *changes* the *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural **sheaves**. Compare **roof**.

**shear** (cut close with shears), distinguish from **sheer** (exceedingly thin; absolute). Note that the parts of **shear** are irregular being **sheared** or **shorn** in the preterit, **sheared** or **shorn** in the past participle, and **shear'ing** in the present participle.

**shears**. See under **SHEERS**.

**sheath** (a scabbard), distinguish from **sheathe** (to cover). The latter *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sheathed**, **sheath'ing**.

**shed** *doubles* the *d* in forming the present participle **shed'-ding** and the noun **shed'der**.

**sheep**. The singular and the plural of this word are identical in spelling.

**sheer**. Distinguish from **SHEAR**.

**sheers** (a hoisting tackle of spars, ropes and pulleys), distinguish from **shears** (a scissor-like clipping or cutting instrument).

**shelf** *changes* the *f* to *v* and adds *-es* in forming the plural **shelves**.

**shel-lac'** adds *k* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shel-lacked'**, **shel-lack'ing**.

**shep'herd**, not *shepard* or *shepperd*.

**sher'iff-al-ty**, **shriev'al-ty** both *change* the *y* to *i* and add *es* in forming the plural **sher'iff-al-ties**, **shriev'al-ties**.

**sher'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **sher'ries**.

**shield**, not *shield*. See **FI** and **IE**, pp. 7 and 9.

**shil-la'lah**, **shil-le'lagh**, **shil-le'lah**, **shil-la'ly**. All forms are used, but as the word is derived from *Shil-lelah*, the Irish barony, and this spelling should be preferred.

**shil'ly-shal'ly** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **shil'ly-shal'lied**, and before *-er* in the noun **shil'ly-shal'li-er**.

**shin** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **shinned**, **shin'ning**.

**shine** *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shin'ing**. The past participle is formed by changing *i* to *o*, **shone**.



**shin'gle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shin'gled**, **shin'gling**.

**ship** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shipped**, **ship'ping**, and before *-er* in the noun **ship'per**.

**shoal**. Distinguish from **SHAWL**.

**shoe** retains the final vowel before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shoe'ing**. The past participle is **shod** or **shod'den**.

**sho'er** (one who shoes, as a blacksmith), distinguish from **shoo'er** (one who scares away birds), and from **sure** (certain).

**shoo'ing** (the act of scaring away birds), distinguish from **shoe'ing** (the act of putting shoes on horses, etc.).

**shoot** (1. To discharge a projectile from a firearm. 2. A young plant), distinguish from **chute** (an inclined trough).

**shoot**. The past participle of the verb is **shot**, NOT *shooted*; the present participle is **shooting**.

**shop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **shopped**, **shop'ping** and before *-er* in the noun **shop'per**.

**shore** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shored**, **shor'ing**.

**shor'ing** (*n.*), not *shoreing*.

**shot** (to load with shot, as a firearm) doubles the *t* in forming the participles **shot'ted**, **shot'ting**.

**shot** (*n.*). The plural is **shot** or **shots**.

**should**. Note that the *l* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2, and L.

**shove** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shoved**, **shov'ing**, and before *-er* in forming the noun **shov'er**.

**shov'el** (a scoop for digging), distinguish from **shuf'fle** (to confuse; hesitate; evade).

**show**. The parts of this verb are **showed** (preterit), **shown** or **showed** (past participle), **show'ing** (present participle).

**shred** doubles the *d* in forming the past participle **shred'ded**, but the verb has an alternative **shred**. The *d* is doubled in the present participle **shred'ding**.

**shriek**, not *shreik*. See **EI** and **IE**, pp. 7 and 9.

**shrine** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shrined**, **shrin'ing**.

**shrink.** The parts of this verb are irregular. The preterit is **shrank** or **shrunk**; the past participle, **shrunk** or **shrunk'en**; the present participle, **shrink'ing**. The past participial form **shrunked** is now obsolete.

**shrive.** The parts of this verb are **shrove** or **shrived** (preterit); **shriv'en** or **shrived** (past participle); and **shriv'ing** (present participle).

**shriv'el.** The participles are spelt **shriv'eled** or **shriv'elled**, **shriv'el-ing** or **shriv'el-ling**.

**shrub** doubles the *b* in the nouns **shrub'ber-y**, **shrub'bi-ness**, and in the adjective **shrub'by** which *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **shrub'bi-er**, **shrub'bi-est**.

**shrug** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **shrugged**, **shrug'ging**.

**shuf'fle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **shuf'fled**, **shuf'fing** and before *-er* in the noun **shuf'fler**.

**shun** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **shunned**, **shun'ning**, and in the noun **shun'ner**.

**shut.** The past participles is **shut**, not *shutted*, but the present participle is formed by doubling the *t* and adding *-ing*, **shut'ting**. In the noun the *t* is doubled and *-er* is added, **shut'ter**.

**shy** (*a.*). The comparative and superlative of this word has two forms: **shy'er** or **shi'er**, **shy'est** or **shi'est**.

**shy** (*v.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **shied**, but it is retained before *-ing* in forming the present participle **shy'ing** and before *-ly* and *-ness* in **shy'ly**, **shy'ness**.

**sib'i-lance**, not *sibilence*.

**sib'i-lant**, not *sibilent*.

**sib'yl**, not *sybil*.

**sib'yl-line**, not *sybilline*.

**sick** (*ill*), distinguish from **six** (a number, one more than five).

**side** (a bounding line or surface; edge), distinguish from **sighed** (grieved for or lamented).

**siege**, not *seige*. See **xi** and **ix**, pp. 7 and 9.

**sieve**, not *seive*. See **xi** and **ix**, pp. 7 and 9.

**seize**. Misspelling of **SEIZE**.

**sigh'er** (one given to sighing), distinguish from **sire'** (a father).

**sighs** (deep breaths), distinguish from **size** (bulk; magnitude).

**sight** (a view), distinguish from **cite** (to quote), and from **site** (a place). See **GH**.

**sign** (a symbol; a mark), distinguish from **sine** (a line in trigonometry). See **G**.

**sig'nal**. The participles of this verb are spelt **sig'naled** or **sig'nalled**, **sig'nal-ing** or **sig'nal-ling**. Compare **SIGNALIZE**.

**sig'nal-er**, **sig'nal-ler**. Both forms are in use.

**sig'nal-ize**, not *signalise*. The final vowel is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sig'nalized**, **sig'nal-iz'ing**. Note that the *l* is not doubled. Compare **SIGNAL**.

**sig'net** (a seal), distinguish from **cyg'net** (a young swan).

**sig-nif'i-cance**. See **SUFFIXES**, p. 5.

**sig'ni-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sig'ni-fied**, but retains it in the present participle **sig'ni-fy'ing**.

**si'gnior**, **si'gnor**. Distinguish from **SEIGNIOR**.

**si'lage**, not *sylage*.

**si'lence** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **si'lenced**, **si'lenc-ing**.

**sil'hou-ette'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sil'hou-et'ted**, **sil'hou-et'ting**.

**si-li'ceous**, **si-li'cious** (flinty), distinguish from **ci-li'cious** (made of hair).

**sil'ly** (simple; foolish), distinguish from **Scil'ly** (a group of islands to the southwest of England).

**sil'ly** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **sil'li-er**, **sil'li-est**.

**sil'ver** (a precious metal), distinguish from **syl'va** (forest-trees).

**Sim'e-on** (a son of Jacob. See *Gen.* xxix, 33), distinguish from **sim'i-an** (an ape or monkey).

**sim'mer**, not *simer*.

**Si'mon** (the apostle Peter), distinguish from **Ci'mon** (an Athenian general).

**si-moom'**, not *simoun* or *simoon*. The word is derived from the Arabic *samum*, from *samm*, to poison, and the moon has nothing to do with it.

**sim'pli-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **sim'pli-fied**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present, **sim'pli-fy'ing**.

**sim'u-late**, not *simalate*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sim'ul-at"ed**, **sim'u-lat'ing**.

**sin** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **sinned**, **sin'ning**, and in the noun **sin'ner**.

**sine** (a line in trigonometry), distinguish from **sign** (a symbol; a mark).

**si'ne-cure**, not *sinacure* or *sinicure*.

**singe** drops the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **singed**, but retains it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **singe'ing**.

**sin'gle** (alone), distinguish from **cin'gle** (a girth or belt).

**sin'gle** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sin'gled**, **sin'gling**.

**sin'i-cal** (relating to a sine), distinguish from **cyn'i-cal** (contemptuous; pessimistic).

**sin'is-ter**, not *sinistre* which is the French form.

**sin'is-torse** (twinning), distinguish from **sin'is-trous** (ill-omened).

**sink** (a draining basin or cesspool), distinguish from **cinq** (five).

**sink, v.** The parts of this verb are irregular being **sank** or **sunk** (preterit); **sunk** or **sunk'en** (past participle); **sink'ing** (present participle).

**sin'ner** (an evil doer), distinguish from **Cin'na** (a Roman consul).

**Sioux** (a tribe of North American Indians), distinguish from **Sault** (a town near Carpentaras, France). Compare SAULTE SAINTE MARIE.

**sip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **sipped**, **sip'ping**, and the noun **sip'per**.

**si'phon**, not *sifon*.

**sirbase**. Misspelling of **SURBASE**.

**sire** (a father), distinguish from **sigh'er** (one who sighs).

**si'ren**, not *syren*.

**Sir'i-us** (a star), distinguish from **ce're-ous** (waxen), **se'ries** (succession), and from **se'ri-ous** (grave; solemn).

**sir'lain**, not *surloin*.

**si-roc'co**, not *sirrocco*.

**sir'up**, **syr'up**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. The word is derived from the Old French *sirop*.

**sis'al**, not *sisal*.

- sit.** The parts of this verb are formed irregularly: The preterit and past participle **sat**, the present participle **sit'ting**. The *t* is doubled in forming the noun **sit'ter**.
- site** (a piece of ground, as for the erection of a building), distinguish from **cite** (to quote), and from **sight** (a view).
- siz'a-ble, size'a-ble.** Both forms are in use.
- size** (bulk; magnitude), and **size** (a gelatinous substance used in glazing paper) are spelt alike.
- skate** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **skat'ed, skat'ing**.
- skee** drops the final *e* before **-ed** in the past participle **skeed**, but retains it before **-ing** in the present **skee'ing**. See **SKI**.
- skein**, not **skane** as it is pronounced. See **ER**, p. 76.
- skep'tic, skep'tic-al, skep'ti-cism.** These forms are noted by American dictionaries, but are seldom seen in periodical literature. See **SCEPTIC**.
- ski.** The Danish form of **SKEE**, pronounced in Norwegian **she**. The participles are **skied, ski'ing**.
- ski'a-graph, sci'a-graph.** Both forms are noted by the dictionaries, but **ra'di-o-graph** is in wider use.
- skid** doubles the *d* before **-ed** and **-ing** in the participles **skid'ded, skid'ding**, and in the noun **skid'der**.
- skil'ful, skill'ful.** Both forms are used; not **skilfull**. See **-FUL**, p. 89.
- skil'ful-ly**, not **skillfully**.
- skil'ful-ness**, not **skillfulness** or **skillfullness**.
- skil'less, skill'-less.** Both forms are used, but the first is preferred.
- skim** doubles the *m* in forming the participles **skimmed, skim'ming**, the noun **skim'mer**, and the adjective **skim'my** which changes the *y* to *i* before **-er** and **-est** in forming the comparative and the superlative **skim'mi-er, skim'mi-est**.
- skin** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **skinned, skin'ning**, the noun **skin'ner**, and the adjective **skin'ny** which changes the *y* to *i* before **-er** and **-est** in forming the comparative and the superlative **skin'ni-er, skin'ni-est**.
- skip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **skipped, skip'ping**, the noun **skip'per**, and the adjective **skip'py**.

- skit** *doubles* the *t* in forming the adjective **skit'tish**.
- skive** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **skived**, **skiv'ing**, NOT *skive'ing*.
- skull** (the cranium), distinguish from **scull** (a spoon oar).
- sky** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **skied**, and before *es* in the plural **skies**, but *retains* it in the adjectives **sky'ey**, **sky'ish**, and the present participle **sky'ing**.
- slake** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slaked**, **slak'ing**.
- slam** *doubles* the *m* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slammed**, **slam'ming**.
- slap** *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participle **slapped**, **slap'ping**, and the noun **slap'per**.
- slate** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slat'ed**, **slat'ing**, NOT *slateing*.
- slaugh'ter**, not *slauter*. Note that the digraph *gh* is silent. See GH, p. 92.
- slave** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **slaved**, **slav'ing**, and the adjective **slav'ish**.
- slay** (to kill), distinguish from **sleigh** (a vehicle on runners), and from **sley** (a weaver's reed).
- slay**. The parts of this verb are irregular: **slew** (preterit); **slain** (past participle), but the present participle is regular, **slay'ing**.
- sleave** (matted thread or silk), distinguish from **sleeve** (the arm-covering of a garment).
- sleave** (to disentangle a mass of threads), distinguish from **sleeve** (to fit sleeves to). Both these verbs *drop* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming their participles **sleaved**, **sleav'ing**, **sleeved**, **sleev'ing**.
- sled** *doubles* the *d* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sled'ded**, **sled'ding**.
- sleep**. The past participle of this verb is **slept**, the present participle **sleep'ing**.
- sleeve**. Distinguish from **SLEAVE**.
- sleigh**. Distinguish from **SLAY**.
- sley** (a weaver's reed), distinguish from **sleigh** (a vehicle on runners).
- slice** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sliced**, **slic'ing**, but *retains* it before *-able* in adjective **slice'a-ble**.
- slid'a-ble**, not *slideable*.

- slide.** The preterit of this verb is **slid** or **slid'ed**, the past participle **slid** or **slid'den**, the present participle **slid'ing**.
- slight.** Distinguish from **SLEIGHT**.
- slim** doubles the *m* in forming the comparative and superlative **slim'mer**, **slim'mest**.
- slime** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **slimed**, **slim'ing**, and the adjective **slim'y** which changes the *y* to *i* before **-er** and **-est** in forming the comparative and superlative **slim'i-er**, **slim'i-est**.
- sling** changes the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **slung**. The present participle is **sling'ing**.
- slink** changes the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the past participle **slank** or **slunk**. The present participle is **slink'ing**.
- slip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **slipped**, **slip'ping**. The form **slipt** (*pp.*) is used in poetry.
- slit.** The past participle is **slit** or **slit'ted**, the present participle **slit'ting**. The *t* is doubled before **-er** in the noun **slit'ter**.
- sloe** (a wild bitter plum), distinguish from **slow** (not swift).
- sloid**, **sloyd**. Both forms are used. The word is from the Swedish *slojd*, skill, and designates a system of manual training.
- slop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **slopped**, **slop'ping**, and the adjective **slop'py** which changes the *y* to *i* before **-er** and **-est** in forming the comparative and the superlative **slop'pi-er**, **slop'pi-est**.
- slope** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **sloped**, **slop'ing**.
- slot** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **slot'ted**, **slot'ting**.
- slough.** This word is pronounced *sluf* or *slow* (*ow* as in *how*), but spelt as given above the *gh* being silent. See **GH**.
- slow** (not fast or quick), distinguish from **sloe** (a wild bitter plum).
- slue** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **slued**, **slu'ing**, NOT *slueing*.
- slug** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **slugged**, **slug'ging**, the nouns **slug'gard**, **slug'ger**, and the adjective **slug'gish**.
- sluice** drops the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **sluiced**, **sluic'ing**.

**slur** *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **slurred**, **slur'ring**.

**sly**. The comparative and the superlative of this adjective are written **sly'er** or **sli'er**, **sly'est** or **sli'est**.

**sly** *retains* the *y* in the adverb **sly'ly** and the noun **sly'ness**.

**smear**, not *smere*.

**smell**. The past participle is **smelled** or **smelt**.

**smelt** (a small food-fish) and **smelt** (to reduce ores in a furnace) are spelt and pronounced alike.

**smile** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **smiled**, **smil'ing**.

**smite**. The preterit is **smote** or **smit**, the past participle **smit'ten** or **smit**, the present participle **smit'ing**.

**smoke** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **smoked**, **smok'ing**.

**smol'der**, **smoul'der**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**smooth**, not *smoothe*, the original form, the word being derived from the Anglo-Saxon *smōthe*.

**smooth'er** (one who or that which smooths), distinguish from **smoth'er** (that which smothers, as dust or vapor).

**smudge** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **smudged**, **smudg'ing**, and *changes* the *e* to *y* in forming the adjective **smud'gy**, NOT *smudgery*.

**smut** *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **smut'ted**, **smut'ting**, and the adjective **smut'ty** which *changes* the *y* to *i* in forming the comparative and the superlative **smut'ti-er**, **smut'ti-est**, the adverbs **smut'ti-ly**, and the noun **smut'ti-ness**.

**snag** *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **snagged**, **snag'ging**, and the adjective **snag'gy**.

**snap** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **snapped**, **snap'ping**, the noun **snap'per**, and the adjectives **snap'pish**, **snap'py**.

**snare** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **snared**, **snar'ing**, NOT *snareing*.

**sneak**, not *sneek* as it is pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and *EA*, p. 75.

**sneer**, not *snear*.

**sneeze** *drops* the final *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **sneezed**, **sneez'ing**.

**snip** *doubles* the *p* in the participles **snipped**, **snip'ping**.



**snipe** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sniped**, **snip'ing** and changes *e* to *y* in forming the adjective **snip'y**.

**snipeing**. Misspelling of **snip'ing**. See **SNIPE**.

**sniv'el**. The participles of this verb are spelt **sniv'eled** or **sniv'el-led**, **sniv'el-ing** or **sniv'el-ling**.

**sniv'el-er**, **sniv'el-ler**. Both forms are in use.

**snob** doubles the *b* in forming the noun **snob'ber-y** and the adjective **snob'bish**.

**snore** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **snored**, **snor'ing**, NOT *snoreing*.

**snub** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **snubbed**, **snub'bing**, and the noun **snub'ber**.

**snug** doubles the *g* in forming the comparative and the superlative **snug'ger**, **snug'gest**.

**so** (in such manner), distinguish from **sew** (to mend with needle and thread), and from **sow** (to scatter seed).

**soak** (the act of immersing in a liquid, as clothes in water), distinguish from **soke** (a franchise, privilege, or jurisdiction).

**soap**, not *sope* as it is pronounced. Note that the *a* is silent. See OA, p. 141.

**soar** (a range of upward flight), distinguish from **sore** (an inflamed, bruised, or diseased place). See OA, p. 141.

**soared** (floated in air, as a bird), distinguish from **sword** (a weapon).

**sob** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **sobbed**, **sob'-bing**.

**so'bri-quet'**. A word derived from the French and meaning a nickname, which is pronounced as if spelt *sobrikay*. Compare **BOUQUET**.

**soc'cer**, not *socker*. A colloquialism of recent introduction for football played under rules of the Football Association.

**so-ci'e-ty** changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **so-ci'e-ties**.

**sod** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **sod'ded**, **sod'-ding**.

**sod'den** doubles the *n* in forming the noun **sod'den-ness**.

**sog'gy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **sog'gi-er**, **sog'gi-est**.

**soi'rée'**. A word derived from the French the spelling of which can not be deduced from the pronunciation *swa"rey'*.

**so'journ**, not *sojourn* as it is pronounced. Note that the second *o* is silent. See **O**.

**soke**. Distinguish from **SOAK**.

**sold** (disposed of by sale), distinguish from **soled** (furnished with a sole, as a shoe).

**sold'er**, not *sodder* as it is usually pronounced.

**sol'dier**, not *soljer* as it is pronounced. See **D**, p. 65.

**sole** (*I. a.* Only. *II. n.* 1. The bottom of the foot. 2. A fish), distinguish from **soul** (the spirit).

**sole** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soled**, **sol'ing**, NOT *soleing*.

**soled**. Distinguish from **SOLD**.

**sol'emn**, not *solem* as it is pronounced, the *n* being silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **N**.

**sol'em-nise**, **sol'em-nize**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in the participles **sol'em-nised** or **-nized**, **sol'em-nis'ing** or **-niz'ing**. The nouns in *-ation* and *-er* are also spelt with either *s* or *z* according to the usage of the country.

**so-lid'i-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **so-lid'i-fied**. The present participle is **so-lid'i-fy'ing**.

**so-lil'o-quize**, **so-lil'o-quise**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **so-lil'o-quized** or **-quised**, **so-lil'o-quiz'ing** or **-quis'ing**.

**so-lil'o-quy** changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **so-lil'o-quies**.

**so'lo**. The plural is formed by adding *s*. See **PLURALS OF NOUNS**, p. 13.

**sol'stice**, not *solstis* as it is pronounced.

**solv'a-ble**, not *solveable*.

**solve** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **solved**, **solv'ing**, NOT *solveing*.

**som'ber**, **som'bre**. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. So also **som'ber-ly** and **som'bre-ly**.

**som-bre'ro**, not *sombraro*.

**some** (a part of anything), distinguish from **Somme** (a river in France), and from **sum** (the amount or total).

**som-nam'bu-lance**, not *somnambulance*.

**som-nam'bu-lant**, not *somnambulant*.

- son** (a male child), distinguish from **sun** (a heavenly body, the source of light and heat).
- soot** (a black carbon from smoke), distinguish from **suit** (an outfit, as of clothes; also, a case at law).
- sooth** (true; trustworthy), distinguish from **soothe** (to calm).
- soothe** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soothed**, **sooth'ing**.
- sooth'say-er**, not *soothesayer*.
- sop** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **sopped**, **sop'ping**.
- soph'ism**, not *sofism*. So also **soph'ist**, **soph'is-ter**, **soph'is-tic**, **so-phis'ti-cate**, **soph'is-try**, etc. See PH.
- soph'o-more**, not *sophamore*. See PH.
- so-pra'no**. The plural is formed by adding *s*, **so-pra'nos**; or by changing the final *o* to *i*, **so-pra'ni**.
- sore**. Distinguish from **soar**.
- sor'ghum**, not *sorgum* as it is pronounced. Note that the *h* is silent.
- sor'rel** not *sorel*.
- sor'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **sor'ri-er**, **sor'ri-est**.
- sort** (a kind), distinguish from **sought** (looked for).
- sou'brette'**, not *soubret*.
- Sou-dan'**, **Su-dan'**. Both forms are in use, but the second is more frequent.
- sough** (a murmuring sound, as of wind through trees), distinguish from **sow** (a female swine).
- soul** (the spirit), distinguish from **sole** (the bottom of the foot).
- source** (origin), distinguish from **sauce** (a gravy or relish).
- souse** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **soused**, **sous'ing**, **NOT souseing**.
- South-amp'ton**, not *Southhampton*.
- south'er-ly**, not *sutherly* as it is pronounced.
- south'ern**, not *suthern* as it is pronounced.
- sov'er-eign**, not *souregn* as it is pronounced.
- sow** (to scatter seed), distinguish from **sew** (make, mend, or fasten with thread), and from **so** (in such manner).
- space** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spaced**, **spac'ing**, but *retains* it before *-able* in **space'a-ble**.

- spa'cious** (wide; roomy), distinguish from **spe'cious** (plausible).
- spa-ghet'ti**. An Italian word in which the *h* is silent in English.
- Spain** drops the *i* before *-iard* and *-ish* in forming the noun **Span'iard**, and the adjective **Span'ish**.
- span** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **spanned**, **span'ning**, and the noun **span'ner**.
- span'iel**, not *spanyel* as it is pronounced.
- spar** doubles the *r* in forming the participles **sparred**, **spar'ring**, and the noun **spar'rer**.
- spare** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spared**, **spar'ing**, but *retains* it in **spare'ly**, **spare'ness**.
- spat** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **spat'ted**, **spat'ting**.
- spat'ter**, not *spater*.
- speak**. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2. The parts of this verb are **spoke** (preterit) or **spake** (archaic form), **spok'en** (past participle) or **spoke** (archaic form), **speak'ing** (present participle). See EA, p. 75.
- spe'cial**, not *speshal* as it is pronounced.
- spe'ci-al'i-ty** (specific or individual character; peculiarity), distinguish from **spe'cial-ty** (an occupation or study limited to one particular line). Both words change *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plurals **spe'ci-al'i-ties**, **spe'cial-ties**.
- spe'cial-ize**, **spe'cial-ise**. Both forms are in use, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- spe'cie** (coined money; coin), distinguish from **spe'cies** (a group), as of animals or plants, belonging to a particular class or genus. Compare **specious**.
- spec'i-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **spec'i-fied**, but *retains* it in the present participle **spec'i-fy'ing**.
- spe'cious** (plausible), distinguish from **spa'cious** (wide; roomy).
- spec-ta'tor**, not *spectater*. See SUFFIXES, p. 11.
- spec'ter**, **spec'tre**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- spec'u-la'tor**, not *speculater*.
- speech**, not *speach*. Compare **speak**.

**speed** has an alternative past participle **sped** which is occasionally used, but the form **speed'ed** is more common.

**spell**. The past participle and past tense of this verb is written **spelled** or **spelt**, the present participle **spell'ing**.

**spend** changes the *d* to *t* in forming the past participle **spent**, NOT *spended*. The present participle is regular, **spend'ing**.

**sphere**, **spher'ic**, **sphero'id**, **sphinc'ter**, **sphinx** (plural, **sphinx'es** or **sphin'ges**). The digraph *ph* in these words is pronounced as *f*. See **F** and **PH**.

**sphinx**, not *sphynx*.

**spice** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spiced**, **spic'ing**.

**spic'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er*, *-est*, *-ly* and *-ness* in **spic'i-er**, **spic'i-est**, **spic'i-ly**, **spic'i-ness**.

**spie'gel-ei"sen**. The German name of a white cast iron.

**spike** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spiked**, **spik'ing**.

**spilt**. A variant form of **spilled**, imperfect tense and past participle of **SPILL**.

**spin**. The parts of the verb are irregular, the preterit being **spun** or **span**; the past participle **spun**; the present participle **spin'ning**.

**spin** doubles the *n* before *-er* in forming the noun **spin'ner**.

**spin'ach**. A word derived from the Old French *spinache* or *espinage*, but pronounced in English as if spelt *spinage*, a variant form rarely used.

**spir'i-tual** (sacred or religious), distinguish from **spir"i-tu-elle'** (characterized by grace, refinement, and delicacy). The second is a French word.

**spir'i-tu-al-ize**, not *spiritualise*. The *e* is dropped before *-ation*, *-ed*, and *-ing* in **spir'i-tu-al-i-za'tion**, **spir'i-tu-al-ized**, **spir'i-tu-al-iz'ing**.

**spit'**. To expectorate. The parts of the verb are irregular, the preterit and past participle being **spit** or **spat**; the present participle **spit'ing**. *Spitted*, a former past participle, is not now in good use.

**spit'**. To spear or stick through with a spit or skewer. This verb doubles the *t* in forming the participles **spit'ted**, **spit'ting**.

**splice** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **spliced**, **splic'ing**, but retains it before *-able* in **splice'a-ble**.

**split** *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **split'ted**, **split'ting**, but has an alternative past participle **split**.

**spoil** forms the past participle by adding *-ed* or *-t*, **spoiled** or **spoilt**. The present participle is **spoil'ing**.

**spoke**, not *spook*.

**sponge** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sponged**, **spong'ing**, NOT *spongeing*.

**sponge'a-ble**, not *spongable*.

**spon'sor**, not *sponser*.

**spou-ta'ne-ous** *retains* the *e*, but substitutes *-ity* for *-ous* in forming the noun **spou"ta-ne'i-ty**. Compare MASCULINE.

**spot** *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **spot'ted**, **spot'ting**, the adjectives **spot'ta-ble**, **spot'ty**, and the noun **spot'ter**.

**spread**, not *spreed*. The past participle and past tense are **spread**, not *spreaded*. The present participle is **spread'ing**.

**sprig** *doubles* the *g* in forming the participles **sprigged**, **sprig'ging**.

**spright'ly**, not *spritely* as it is pronounced, the *gh* being silent. See *GH*. The *y* changes to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **spright'li-er**, **spright'li-est**, and also before *-ness* in the noun **spright'li-ness**.

**spring** *changes* the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the preterit **sprang** or **sprung**. The past participle is **sprung**, present participle **spring'ing**.

**sprin'kle**, not *sprinkel*. The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **sprin'kled** (NOT *sprinkeled*), **sprin'kling** (NOT *sprinkeling*).

**spry** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **spr'i-er**, **spr'i-est**.

**spur** *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **spurred**, **spur'ring**.

**spy** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **spied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **spy'ing**.

**spy** (*n.*) *changes* the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **spies**.

**squal'id**, not *squalid*. See *Q*. The word is derived from the Latin *squales*, be foul.

- squall**, not *squal*. See Q. The word is derived from the Swedish *squal*, rush of water.
- squal'or**, not *squaler* or *squallor*. See SQUALID.
- square** drops the *e* before *-able*, *-ed*, *-er*, and *-ing* in **squar'a-ble**, **squared**, **squar'er**, **squar'ing**.
- squat** doubles the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **squat'ted**, **squat'ting**, before *-er* in the noun **squat'ter**, and before *-y* in the adjective **squat'ty**, which changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **squat'ti-er**, **squat'ti-est**.
- squeak**, not *squeek* or *skweek*. See EA and Q.
- squeal**, not *squeel* or *skweel*. See EA and Q.
- squib** doubles the *b* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **squibbed**, **squib'bing**.
- squir'rel**, not *squrrul*.
- stab** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **stabbed'**, **stab'bing** and before *-er* in the noun **stab'ber**.
- stab'i-lize**, not *stabilise*.
- sta'di-um** forms the plural by adding *s* to the root-word **sta'di-ums**, or by dropping *um* and adding *a*, **sta'di-a**.
- staff**<sup>1</sup> (a body of military officers) forms the plural by adding *s*, **staffs**.
- staff**<sup>2</sup> (a shaft or pole of wood) changes the *ff* to *ves* to form the plural **staves**.
- stair** (a step, or one of a series of steps), distinguish from **stare** (a steady or fixed gaze).
- stake** (a sharp stick; a wager), distinguish from **steak** (a slice of beef).
- stalk** (a stem), distinguish from **stork** (a long-legged bird of passage). Note that the *l* in the first word is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and L.
- stanch**, **staunch**. Both forms are in use. The first is preferred in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- stand**. The past participle of this verb is formed by changing *an* to *oo*, **stood**. Not *standed*. The present participle is **stand'ing**.
- stand'ard-ize**, **stand'ard-ise**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- stare**. Distinguish from **stair**.
- starve** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **starved**, **starv'ing**, but retains it before *-ling* in **starve'ling**.

**sta'tion-a-ry** (remaining in one place), distinguish from **sta'tion-er-y** (writing materials).

**stat'ue** (a figure carved in marble), distinguish from **stat'ure** (height of a person), and from **stat'ute** (a law).

**staves.** Plural of **STAFF**<sup>2</sup>.

**stay.** The past participle is **stayed** or **staid**, and the present participle **stay'ing**.

**steak.** Distinguish from **STAKE**.

**steal** (to rob, to pilfer), distinguish from **steel** (to make or cover with refined iron).

**steer** (I. *n.* A young male ox. II. *v.* To guide a ship on its course), distinguish from **stere** (a cubic unit of metric measure).

**stel'la** (a surgical bandage), distinguish from **stel'lar** (starry).

**stem** *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **stemmed**, **stem'ming**.

**sten'cil.** The participles of this verb are written **sten'ciled** or **sten'cilled**, **sten'cil-ing** or **sten'cil'ing**.

**step** (a motion forward made with the foot), distinguish from **steppe** (a vast plain).

**stere.** Distinguish from **STEER**.

**ster'e-o-type** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ster'e-o-typed**, **ster'e-o-typ'ing**.

**ster'ile** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ster'il-ize**, **ster'il-iz'ing**.

**ster'ling** (I. *n.* Money of standard value. II. *a.* Genuine), distinguish from **Stir'ling** (a city in Scotland).

**ster'tor-ous**, not *sterterous*.

**stet** (to let stand: used in proof-reading), *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles **stet'ted**, **stet'ting**.

**stich** (a line or verse of the Bible), distinguish from **stick** (a piece of wood).

**stick** *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **stuck**, but *retains* it in the present participle **stick'-ing**.

**sticks** (bits of wood), distinguish from **Styx** (a river of Hades).

**stig'ma** forms the plural by adding *s* or *-ta*. In ecclesiastical use, always **stig'ma-ta**.

**stig'ma-tize** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stig'ma-tized**, **stig'ma-tiz'ing**.



- stile** (a step on either side of a fence), distinguish from **style** (fashion; mode).
- sting** *changes* the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **stung**, but *retains* it in the present participle **sting'-ing**.
- stir** *doubles* the *r* in forming the participles **stirred**, **stir'-ring**.
- Stir'ling** (a city in Scotland). Distinguish from **STERLING**.
- stirrup**, not *stirup*.
- stitch**, not **STICH**, which see.
- stodg'y**, not *stodgey*.
- sto'ma** (a pore) forms the plural by adding **-ta**, **sto'ma-ta**, NOT *stomas*.
- stom'ach**. Note that the *o* is pronounced like *u* in "but" and the *ch* like *k*. See **CH**. The participles of the verb are **stom'ached**, **stom'ach-ing**.
- stom'ach-ache'**, not *stumacake*.
- stone** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **stoned**, **ston'ing**.
- stop** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **stopped**, **stop'ping**.
- stope** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **stoped**, **stop'ing**, NOT *stopeing*.
- store** *drops* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **stored**, **stor'ing**.
- stork** (a bird of passage), distinguish from **stalk** (the stem of a plant).
- sto'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* and **-ed** is added in forming the adjective **sto'ried** (1. Relating to a narrative. 2. Having different floors, as a building), and the past participle **sto'ried**, but *retains* it in the present participle **sto'ry-ing**.
- sto'ry** *changes* the *y* to *i* and **es** is added in forming the plural **sto'ries**.
- strad'dle**, **strag'gle**. Both verbs *drop* the *e* before **-ed** and **-ing** in forming the participles **strad'dled**, **strad'dling**; **strag'gled**, **strag'gling**.
- straight** (direct), distinguish from **strait** (a narrow passage of water connecting larger bodies).
- straight'en**, **strait'en**. Both forms are used, but the first is usually to designate "to make straight;" the second, "to restrict, restrain, hamper, distress."
- strap** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **strapped**, **strap'ping**.

**stra'ta.** The plural of **STRATUM**. Not *strattas*, as sometimes heard. Compare **DATA**.

**strat'e-gy** changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added in forming the plural **strat'e-gies**.

**stra'tum**, not *strattum* as sometimes heard. See **STRATA**.

**streak, stream.** The *a* is silent in both of these words.

See **A** and **EA**.

**stride.** The preterit and the past participle of this verb are formed irregularly: preterit, **strode**, past participle, **strid'den**, formerly **strid**. The present participle is **strid'ing**.

**strike.** The preterit and the past participle of this verb are formed irregularly: preterit, **struck**, past participle, **struck** or **strick'en**, formerly **strook**. The present participle is **striking**.

**string** changes the *i* to *u* in forming the past participle **strung**. The present participle is **string'ing**.

**strip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **stripped**, **strip'ping**; also in the noun **strip'per**.

**stripe** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **striped**, **strip'ing**.

**strive.** The preterit and the past participle of this verb are irregular: preterit, **strove**, past participle, **striv'en** or **strived**. The present participle is **striv'ing**.

**strop** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **stropped**, **strop'ping**, and in the noun **strop'per**.

**strum** doubles the *m* in forming the participles **strummed**, **strum'ming**, and in the noun **strum'mer**.

**strut** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **strut'ted**, **strut'ting**.

**strych'nin, strych'nine.** Both forms are in use. Note that *ch* is pronounced as *k*. See **CH**.

**stub, stud.** Both of these verbs double the final consonant before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **stubbed**, **stub'bing**; **stud'ded**, **stud'ding**.

**stud'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stud'ied**, and before *es* in forming the plural **stud'ies**; but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **stud'y-ing**.

**stul'ti-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stul'ti-fied**, and before *-er* in the noun **stul'ti-fi-er**; but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **stul'ti-fy'ing**.

**stun** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **stunned**, **stun'ning**, and the noun **stun'ner**.

**stu'pe-fy** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **stu'pe-fied**, and before *-er* in the noun **stu'pe-fi'er**.

**stur'dy** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **stur'di-er**, and the superlative **stur'di-est**.

**stur'geon**, not *sturjen* as it is pronounced.

**style** (1. Fashion; mode. 2. Manner of writing. 3. A pin or pointer on a dial), distinguish from **stile** (a step on either side of a fence).

**style** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **styled**, **styl'ing**, and before *-ist* in the noun **styl'ist**.

**sty'lus** *changes* the *us* to *i* in forming the plural **sty'li**, or adds *-es* in **sty'lus-es**.

**Styx** (a river of the lower regions), distinguish from **sticks** (bits of wood).

**suave**, not *swave* as it is pronounced.

**sub-**. Many English words are formed with this prefix and the second element of compounds with which it is used; as, *subacidulous*, slightly acid; *subordinate*, inferior in order. Only such words of which the second element does not indicate a specific meaning, as *submit*, are recorded in their alphabetical places below.

**sub-duce'** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-duced'**, **sub-duc'ing**.

**sub-due'** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-dued'**, **sub-du'ing**, and before *-er* in the noun **sub-du'er**.

**sub'ju-gate** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'ju-gat'ed**, **sub'ju-gat'ing**.

**sub'ju-ga'tor**, not *subjugater*. See **-OR**, p. 11.

**sub'li-mate**, **sub-lime'**. Both of these verbs *drop* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'li-mat'ed**, **sub'li-mat'ing**; **sub-limed'**, **sub-lim'ing**.

**sub-mis'sion**, not *submission*.

**sub-mit'** *doubles* the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-mit'ted**, **sub'mit'ting**, and before *-er* in the noun **sub-mit'ter**.

- sub-pe'na, sub-poe'na.** Both forms are used, but as the tendency is to discard diphthongs the first is preferred.
- sub'ro-gate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'ro-gat'ed, sub'ro-gat'ing.**
- sub-scribe'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub-scribed', sub-scrib'ing.**
- sub-scrip'tion,** not *subscription.*
- sub'si-dize,** not *subsadize* or *subsidise.* The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'si-dized, sub'si-diz'ing.**
- sub-sis'tence,** not *subsistance.*
- sub'stance,** not *substence.*
- sub'sti-tute** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sub'sti-tut'ed, sub'sti-tut'ing.**
- sub'tile** (delicately formed; refined), distinguish from **sub'tle** (crafty; cunning).
- subt'ler** (more cunning), distinguish from **sut'ler** (a camp-follower who sells goods or provisions to soldiers).
- sub'urb,** not *suberb.*
- suc-ceed'**, not *succede.*
- suc'cor** (help; aid), distinguish from **suck'er** (a type of fish).
- suc-cumb'.** Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.
- Su-dan', Sou-dan'.** Both forms are used, but the first is preferred.
- sue** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sued, su'ing, NOT sueing.** See SUE.
- suède,** not *swade* as it is pronounced.
- su'er** (one who sues), distinguish from **sew'er** (a drain).
- suf-fice'**, not *suffise.* The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **suf-ficed', suf-fic'ing.**
- suf'frage,** not *sufferage.*
- suf'fra-gette'**, not *sufferagette* or *suffraget.*
- suf-fuse'**, not *suffuze.* The *e* is dropped in forming the participles **suf-fused', suf-fus'ing.**
- sug'ar,** not *shuger* as it is pronounced. See U.
- sug-gest'**, not *sudjest* as it is pronounced.
- sug-gest'er, sug-gest'or.** Both forms are used, but the first predominates.
- suit** (an outfit), distinguish from **soot** (a carbonaceous substance from smoke).

**suite** (a succession or series of things), distinguish from *sweet* (agreeable to the senses).

**sul'fur**. This word was formerly spelt *sul'phur*, a form now met with only occasionally. The derivatives *sul'fate*, *sul'fid*, *sul-fu'ric*, etc., were also formerly spelt with *ph* instead of *f*.

**sum** (whole; the total), distinguish from *some* (a part of), and from *Somme* (a river in France).

**sum** *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles *summed*, *sum'ming*, and before *-able* in *sum'ma-ble*.

**su'mac**, not *shumac* as sometimes pronounced.

**sum'ma-rize**, not *summerize*. The form *sum'ma-rise* is also used occasionally. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *sum'ma-rized*, or *-rised*, *sum'ma-riz'ing* or *-ris'ing*.

**sump'tu-a-ry**, not *sumptuary*.

**sun** (a heavenly body, the source of light and heat), distinguish from *son* (a male child).

**sun** *doubles* the *n* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *sunned*, *sun'ning*.

**sup** *doubles* the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *supped*, *sup'ping*, and before *-er* in the noun *sup'per*.

**su'per-cal'en-dered**, not *supercalendared*.

**su'per-er'o-ga'tion**, not *superogation* as often mispronounced.

**su'per-in-ten'dence**, not *superintendance*.

**su'per-in-ten'dent**, not *superintendant*.

**su'per-nu'mer-a-ry**, not *supernumerery*.

**su'per-sede'**, not *supercede*.

**su'per-se'de-as**, not *supercedeas*.

**su'per-vene'** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *su'per-vened'*, *su'per-ven'ing*.

**su'per-vice'**, not *supervize*. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *su'per-vised'*, *su'per-vis'ing*.

**su'per-vi'sor**, not *superviser*.

**su'per-vi'so-ry**, not *supervisery*.

**sup'ple-ment**, not *supplament* or *suppliment*.

**sup-ply'** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle *sup-plied'*, and before *-er* in the noun *sup-pli'er*, but *retains* it before *-ing* in *sup-ply'ing*.

**sup-pos'a-ble**, not *supposeable*.

**sup-pose'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sup-posed'**, **sup-pos'ing**.

**sup-pos'i-to-ry**, not *suppositary* or *suppositery*.

**sup'pu-rate** (to form or generate pus), distinguish from **sep'a-rate** (to divide; disconnect).

**sur'base**, not *sirbase*.

**sur'cin-gle**, not *sursingle*. The word is from the Latin *super*, over, and *cingulum*, belt, not from *singulus*, single.

**sure** (certain), distinguish from **sho'er** (one who shoes).

**sure'ty** changes the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **sure'ties**, but retains it before *-ship* in the noun **sure'ty-ship**.

**surf** (a bursting of waves), distinguish from **serf** (a peasant).

**sur'face** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur'faced**, **sur'fac-ing**, and before *-er* in the noun **sur'fac-er**.

**sur'felt**, not *surfit* as it is pronounced. See **er**, p. 7.

**surge** (a rolling motion, as of a billowy wave), distinguish from **serge** (a woolen cloth).

**surge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **surged**, **surg'ing**.

**sur'geon**, not *surjen* as it is pronounced. See **G**.

**sur'li-ly**, not *surlyly*.

**surloin**. Misspelling of **SIRLOIN**.

**sur'ly** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **sur'li-er**, and the superlative **sur'li-est**, and before *-ness* in the noun **sur'li-ness**.

**sur-mise'**, not *surmize* as it is pronounced. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur-mised'**, **sur-mis'ing**.

**sur'plice** (a clerical dress), distinguish from **sur'plus** (excess).

**sur-prise'**, **sur-prize'**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The *e* of both is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel, as *-al*, *-ed*, *-ing*: **sur-pris'al** or **sur-priz'al**, **sur-prised'** or **sur-prized'**, **sur-pris'ing** or **sur-priz'ing**.

**sur'rep-ti'tious**, not *surreptitious*.

**sur'ro-gate**, not *surragate*.

**sur-veil'lance**, not *surveillance*.

- sur-vive'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sur-vived'**, **sur-viv'ing**.
- sus-cep'ti-ble**, not *susceptable*.
- Sus'que-han'na**. A river in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Not *Susquihannah*.
- sus'te-nance**, not *sustainance* or *sustenance*.
- sut'ler**. Distinguish from **SUTLER**.
- swain**, not *swane*.
- swath** (a space cut by a machine in a single course; sometimes also spelt **swathe**), distinguish from **swathe** (to bind or wrap in bandages) which drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **swathed**, **swath'ing**.
- swear**. The preterit and the past participle of this verb are irregular: preterit, **swore** or formerly **sware**; past participle, **sworn**. The present participle is **swear'ing**.
- sweat**. The past participle is **sweat** or **sweat'ed**; present participle **sweat'ing**. Note that the *a* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1, and **EA**, p. 75.
- sweep** drops one *e* and adds *t* in forming the past participle **swept**, but *retains* both *e*'s and adds *-ing* in the present participle **sweep'ing**.
- sweet**. Distinguish from **SUITE**.
- swell**. The past participle is **swelled** or **swol'en**, present participle **swell'ing**.
- swim** changes the *i* to *a* or *u* in forming the preterit **swam** or **swum**; to *u* in the past participle **swum**, and doubles the *m* before *-ing* in forming the present participle **swim'ming**.
- swing** changes the *i* to *u* in forming the preterit and the past participle **swung**, formerly **swang**, but *retains* it in the present participle **swing'ing**.
- sword** (a weapon), distinguish from **sawed** (having cut with a saw), and from **soared** (did soar). The *w* in the first is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and **W**.
- syc'a-more**, not *sycomore*, an archaic spelling.
- syc'o-phant**, not *sickofant* as it is pronounced.
- syl'la-ba-ry**, not *syllabery*.
- syl'la-ble** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syl'la-bled**, **syl'la-bling**.
- syl'lo-gise**, **syl'lo-gize**. Both forms drop the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syl'lo-gised**, **syl'lo-gized**, **syl'lo-gis'ing**, **syl'lo-giz'ing**.

**syl'lo-gism**, not *syllojism*. See G.

**sylph**, not *sylf*.

**syl'va** (forest-trees), distinguish from **sil'ver** (a precious metal).

**sym'bol** (a sign), distinguish from **cym'bal** (a musical instrument).

**sym'me-try** (harmony of arrangement), distinguish from **cem'e-ter-y** (a burial-ground).

**sym'pa-thise**, **sym'pa-thize**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **sym'pa-thised**, **sym'pa-thized**, **sym'-pa-this'ing**, **sym'pa-thiz'ing**.

**sym-po'si-um** changes the *um* to *a* in forming the plural **sym-po'si-a**. There is a tendency to form the plural by merely adding *s*.

**syn'chro-nize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'chro-nized**, **syn'chro-niz'ing**.

**syn'co-pe**, not *sinkopy*.

**syn'di-cal-ism**, **syn'di-cal-ist**, **syn'di-cal-i-za'tion**, **syn'di-cal-ize**. Note that the first syllable of all these words is spelt with a *y* and not with an *i*. All are words of comparatively recent introduction relating to the economic movement that aimed to federate all the workers of the world. The *e* of the last is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'di-cal-ized**, **syn'di-cal-iz'ing**. The form **syn'di-cal-ise** and its derivatives **-ised**, **-is'ing** are sometimes used.

**syn'di-cate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **syn'di-cat'ed**, **syn'di-cat'ing**.

**sy-nec'do-che**. Note that the digraph *ch* in this word is pronounced as *k*. See CH.

**syn'o-nym**, not *synonyme*, an obsolete spelling.

**sy-nop'sis** changes the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **sy-nop'ses**.

**syr'up**, **syr'up-y**. Variant forms of **SIRUP**, **SIRUPY**.

**syz'y-gy**, pronounced as if spelt *siz'i-ji*, changes the *y* to *i* and *es* is added to form the plural **syn'y-gies**. The word is derived from the Greek *syn*, together, and *zeugnymi*, join, and means the uniting of parts.



- t. Properly *t* has a hard sound as that in *take, tell, till, toll, tulle*; in combination with other letters its sounds vary. Thus it has the sound of *sh* (1) before *ia* as in *satiate*; (2) before *ie*, as in *patience*; (3) before *io*, as in *nation*. It is pronounced like *ch* whenever followed by *u* as in *feature, nature, rapture*, etc.

The letter *t* is indicated, in common spelling (1) by *t*, as in *tale, hot*; (2) by *tt*, as in *tatters, butt*; (3) by *th* as in *Thomas, thyme*; (4) by *d* and *-ed* final in preterits and participles after a surd, as in *faced, asked*. See **TH**. When followed by *l, m, n*, this letter is silent after *f* and *s* as in *often, castle, Christmas*.

**tab'ard**, not *taberd*.

**Ta-bas'co**, not *Tobasco*.

**tab'la-ture**, not *tablateur*.

**ta'ble** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ta'bled**, **ta'bling**.

**tab'leau** forms the plural by adding *s* or *x*, **tab'leaus** or **tab'leaux**.

**tab'ou-ret**, not *tabourette*.

**ta-bu', ta-boo'**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred being etymologically sound. The word is from the Polynesian *tapu*, forbidden.

**tacks** (small nails), distinguish from **tax** (a duty; excise).

**tael** (a Chinese monetary unit), distinguish from **tail** (the appendage at the hindmost part of an animal), from **tale** (a story).

**taf'fe-ta**, not *taffata*.

**tag** doubles the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tagged**, **tag'ging**.

**tail**. Distinguish from **TALE**. See under **TAEL**.

**talc** (a soapstone) forms its derivative adjectives by adding *-ose* or *-ous*, **talc'ose**, **talc'ous**. The variants **talc'y** and **talc'ky** are occasionally used.

**tale**. Distinguish from **TAEL** and **TAIL**.

**tal'ents** (natural powers), distinguish from **tal'ons** (claws).

**tales'man** (one summoned to make up a jury), distinguish from **tal'is-man** (a charm).

**talk**. Note that the *l* is silent. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 2.

**tal'low** (a mixture of beef and mutton fats), distinguish from **tal'ly** (a reckoning on account), which *changes* the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural **tal'lies**.

**tal'ly** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tal'lied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tal'ly-ing**.

**tal'ons**. Distinguish from **TALENTS**.

**tam'a-ble**, not *tameable*.

**tame** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tamed**, **tam'ing**.

**tan** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **tanned**, **tan'ning**.

**Tan'ger-ine'**, not *Tangerene*.

**tan'gi-ble**, not *tangeable*.

**tan'gle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tan'gled**, **tan'gling**.

**tan'go**, **ten'go**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**tan'ta-lise**, **tan'ta-lize**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tan'ta-lised** or **-lized**; **tan'ta-lis'ing** or **-liz'ing**.

**tap** doubles the *p* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tapped**, **tap'ping**, and before *-er* in the noun **tap'per**.

**ta'per** (a long thin candle-like wax wick), distinguish from **ta'pir** (a hog-like mammal with a long nose).

**tap'es-try** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tap'es-tried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tap'es-try-ing**.

**tar'dy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative **tar'di-er**, and the superlative **tar'di-est**.

**tare** (1. The weight of a bale, package, cask, etc. 2. A word of the Bible), distinguish from **tear** (to pull apart; rend).

**tar-pau'lin**, not *tarpalling* its original form.

**tar'ri-er** (a delayer), distinguish from **ter'ri-er** (a dog).

**tar'ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tar'ried** and before *-er* (see above), but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **tar'ry-ing**.

**tar'tar**, not *tarter*. Compare **TATAR**.

**tas'sel**. The participles of this verb are written **tas'seled** or **tas'selled**; **tas'sel-ing** or **tas'sel-ling**.

**taste** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tast'ed**, **tast'ing**.

tat *doubles* the *t* in forming the participles tat'ted, tat'ting.

Ta'tar, Tar'tar. Both spellings have been in use, but the modern tendency is to restrict the latter to designate a person of a savage temper.

tat'ter-de-ma'lion, not *tattademalien*. The word designates "a ragged fellow" and is from *tatter*, rags and Old French *de*, from, *maillon*, long clothes.

tat'tle *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles tat'tled, tat'tling, and before *-er* in tat'tler.

tat-too', not *tatoo*. The root-word *retains* the *oo* before suffixes beginning with a vowel, as *-age*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*, *-ist*, *tat-too'age*, *tat-tooed'*, *tat-too'er*, etc.

taught (instructed), distinguish from *taut* (stretched tight), and from *tort* (a wrong).

taupe (a mole; also, the color of moleskin), distinguish from *tope* (a shrine).

tau-tol'o-gy, not *tortology*. The word is derived from the Greek *tauto*, the same, and *lego*, speak.

taw (to convert into leather), distinguish from *tore* (did tear).

tax (a duty, excise), distinguish from *tacks* (small nails).

tax'i-cab, not *taxacab*.

tax-im'e-ter, not *taxameter*.

tea (a plant or an infusion made from its leaves), distinguish from *tee* (a little cone of earth or sand on which a ball is placed in golf).

teach. The past participle of this verb is irregular: taught.

teach, teak, teal, team. In these words the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2, and EA, p. 75.

team (a set of players, or two or more horses in harness), distinguish from *teem* (to abound).

tear (to pull apart; rend), distinguish from *tare* (weight of a bale, box, cask, etc.).

tear (water from the eye), distinguish from *tier* (a row as in a theater; rank).

teas (plural of TEA), distinguish from *tease* (annoy).

teat. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, pp. 1-2, and EA, p. 75.

tech-nique' (manner of artistic performance), distinguish from *tech'nics* (the doctrine of arts).

ted *doubles* the *d* in forming the participles ted'ded, ted'ding, and in the noun ted'der.

tee *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle *teed*, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle *tee'ing*. Distinguish from *TEA*.

teeth. Plural of *TOOTH*.

tel-au'to-graph, not *telortograph*. See *PH*.

te-lep'a-thy, not *talepathy*.

tel'e-scope *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *tel'e-scoped*, *tel'e-scop'ing*.

tell *changes* to *told* in the past participle, but *adds* an *-ing* in the present *tell'ing*.

tem'per-a-ment, not *temprament*.

tem'per-ance, not *temprance*.

tem'per-ate, not *temperate*. Compare *SEPARATE*.

tem'po-ra-ry, not *temperary*.

tem'po-rize, not *temparize*. The form *tem'po-rise* is used in Great Britain. The final *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *tem'po-rized* or *-rised*; *tem'po-riz'ing* or *-ris'ing*.

ten'ant, not *tennant*.

ten'e-ment, not *tenament*.

Ten'nes-see', not *Tennasee*.

ten'on, not *tennon*.

tense (stretched tight), distinguish from *tents* (canvas shelters).

ten'sion, not *tention*.

ter-cen'te-na-ry, not *tercentennary*.

ter'cen-ten'ni-al, not *tercentennial*.

term'er (a prisoner serving a sentence), distinguish from *term'or* (a person who holds land, etc., for a definite period).

ter-mi-nus *changes* the *-us* to *i* in forming the plural *ter'mi-ni*, but has an alternative formed by adding *-es*, *ter'mi-nus-es*.

terodactyl, *tomain*. Misspellings of *PTERODACTYL*, *PTO-MAIN*.

ter-res'tri-al, not *terrestreal*.

ter'ri-ble, not *terrabble*.

ter'ri-er (a dog), distinguish from *tar'ri-er* (a delayer).

ter'ri-fy *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle *ter'ri-fied*, but *retains* it before *-ing* in *ter'ri-fy'ing*.

ter'ti-a-ry, not *tertiery*.

tes'sel-lat'ed, not *tesalated* or *teselated*.

tes'ta-ment, not *testiment*.

**tes-ta'tor**, not *testater*.

**tes'ti-fy** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tes'ti-fied**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in **tes'ti-fy-ing**.

**tes'ti-mo-ny**, not *testamony*.

**tête"-à-tête'**. Face to face; literally, head to head, a French phrase of which the spelling is not to be deduced from the pronunciation.

**Tha'is** is sometimes pronounced as if spelt *thay'is*, but more frequently as if spelt *ta'ees*. The first is the English, the second the French pronunciation.

**Thames**. The name of a river, the *h* of which is silent in England, but sounded in the United States.

**the** (definite article indicating a particular person or thing), distinguish from **thee** (objective case of THOU).

**the'a-ter**, **the'a-tre**. Both forms are in use, but the latter prevails in the dramatic profession.

**their** (the possessive form of **THEY**), distinguish from **there** (at that place), and from **they're** (contraction of "they are").

**the-oc'ra-cy** (government by the sovereignty of God), distinguish from **the-oc'ra-sy** (mixture of worship of different gods).

**ther'a-peu'tics**, not *theraputics*.

**there-for'** (for that or this), distinguish from **there'fore** (for that or this reason).

**the-sau'rus**, not *thesorus*.

**the'sis** *changes* the *i* to *e* in forming the plural **the'ses**.

**thief** *changes* the *f* to *v* before *-ery* and *-es* in **thiev'e-ry**, **thieves** (*pl.*).

**thigh** (the leg between the hip and the knee), distinguish from **thy** (the possessive case of the personal pronoun **THEE**).

**thin** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **thinned**, **thin'ning**, and before *-er* in the comparative **thin'ner**, and *-est* in the superlative **thin'nest**.

**think** *changes* to **thought** in forming the past participle, but does not *change* before *-ing* in the present participle **think'ing**.

**though**. Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See **gh**. There is a tendency to spell the word **tho**.

**Thom'as**, not *Tomas*, but the *h* is silent.

**Thomp'son**, **Thom'son**. Note that *h* and *p* are silent.

**thor'ough.** Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See GH and UGH.

**thought.** Note that the trigraph *ugh* is silent. See GH and UGH.

**thrall.** Originally spelt with one *l* in Anglo-Saxon *thral* which later alternated with two; the word did not permanently *retain* the two *l*'s until the 17th century, and does not do so in the derivative *thral'dom* which dates from 1205.

**thrash** (1. To beat; whip. 2. To sail to windward), distinguish from **thresh** (to beat out grain).

**thrash'er** (a bird), distinguish from **thresh'er** (one who threshes).

**thread.** Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

**thread'bare'**, not *thredbear*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

**threat, threat'en, threat'en-er.** The *a* in these words is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

**three** (a number), distinguish from **tree** (a plant).

**thresh** (to beat out grain), distinguish from **fresh** (new; recent).

**thresh'er.** Distinguish from **THRASHER**.

**threw** (did **THROW**), distinguish from **through** (from one end to or beyond the other; by means of).

**thrive** *changes* the *i* to *o* in forming the preterit **throve**, and adds *n* in forming the past participle **thriv'en**, but *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in the present participle **thriv'ing**.

**throat.** Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A.

**throb** *doubles* the *b* in forming the participles **throbbed**, **throb'bing**.

**thro**e (great pain), distinguish from **throw** (to fling).

**throne** (a sovereign's chair of state), distinguish from **thrown** (flung).

**through** (from one end to or beyond the other; by means of), distinguish from **threw** (did throw). There is a tendency to spell the former, *thru*.

**throw** *changes* the *o* to *e* in forming the preterit **threw**, and adds *n* in forming the past participle **thrown**, and *-ing* in the present participle **throw'ing**.

**throw** (to fling), distinguish from **thro**e (great pain).

**thrown.** Distinguish from **THRONE**.

- thrum** *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles **thrummed**, **thrum'ming**.
- thrust** *retains* the same form in the past participle, not *thrusted*, but takes *-ing* in the present participle **thrust'ing**.
- thumb**. Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.
- thy** (possessive case of **THEE**), distinguish from **thigh** (the leg between the hip and the knee).
- thyme** (an aromatic garden plant), distinguish from **time** (a portion of duration).
- tide** (rise and fall of the sea), distinguish from **tied** (fastened).
- tier** (a row, as of seats in a theater; rank), distinguish from **tear** (water from the eye).
- tight** (fitting closely), distinguish from **tite** (promptly; quickly).
- tile** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tiled**, **til'ing**.
- tim'ber** (lumber used for building), distinguish from **tim'bre** (the quality of a sound).
- time** (a definite portion of duration), distinguish from **thyme** (an aromatic garden plant).
- tin** *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles **tinned**, **tin'ning**.
- tinc'ture** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tinc'tured**, **tinc'tur-ing**.
- tinge** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tinged**, but *retains* it in the present participle **tinge'-ing**.
- tin'gle** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tin'gled**, **tin'gling**.
- tin'kle** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tin'kled**, **tin'kling**.
- tin'sel**. The participles of this verb are spelt **tin'seled** or **tin'selled**, **tin'sel-ing** or **tin'sel-ling**.
- ti'ny** *changes* the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and the superlative **ti'ni-er**, **ti'ni-est**.
- tip** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **tipped**, **tip'ping**, and the noun **tip'per**.
- tire** (a band or hoop; also, a flexible tube), distinguish from **Tyr** (Norse God of War) and **Tyre** (an ancient Phenician city).

**tire** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tired**, **tir'ing**, but *retains* it before a suffix beginning with a consonant, **tire'less**.

**ti'sane'**. The American spelling, derived from the French, of **pti'san** (from the Latin *ptisana*) for an infusion or a decoction of barley. Note that the *p* in the latter is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 4, and P.

**Ti'tan** (one of a fabled race of giants), distinguish from **Ti'tian** (a Venetian painter), and from **Tit'iens** or **Tit'jens** (a German diva).

**ti'ter**, **ti'tre** (the standard of strength of a chemical solution). Both forms are in use. Distinguish the former from **tit'ter** (a suppressed laugh).

**ti'tle** (to give a name or title to) *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ti'tled**, **ti'tling**. Distinguish from **tit'tle** (a very small quantity).

**ti'trate** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ti'trat-ed**, **ti'trat-ing**.

**ti'tu-lar**, not *tituler* or *titulor*.

**tme'sis**. A word in grammar denoting the presence of an intervening word in a compound as to *us* ward for "*toward us*." The *t* is sometimes sounded but often not. **to** (toward), distinguish from **too** (excessive), and from **two** (a number). Note that these three words are pronounced *tu* (*u* as in "rule") in English speech.

**toad**. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and A and O.

**toad'y**. Note that the *a* is silent (see **ROAD**), and that the *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **toad'ied**, but is retained in the present participle **toad'y-ing**.

**toast**. Note that the *a* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and OA, p. 141.

**toe** (a part of the foot). Note that the *e* is silent and distinguish from **tow** (I. *v.* To draw along. II. *n.* Coarse flax).

**toe** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* in the past participle **toed**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **toe'ing**.

**toi'let**, not *toylet*. In French, **toi'lette**.

**told** (mentioned), distinguish from **tolled** (rung).

**tol'er-ant**, not *tolerent*.

**to-ma'to**. Sometimes pronounced *to-mah'to*, but the spelling is the same. The American pronunciation *to-may'to* is formed on the analogy of **po-ta'to**.



**tomb.** Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

**Tomp'kins.** The *p* in this name is frequently silent.

**ton** (measure of weight), distinguish from **tun** (a large cask).

**tone** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toned**, **ton'ing**.

**tongue**, not *tung* as it is pronounced.

**tonnage**, not *tunnage* as it is pronounced.

**ton'neau'**. Note the last syllable—not *tonno*.

**ton'sil-li'tis** is preferred to **ton'sil-i'tis**, but both forms are in use.

**ton-time'**, not *tonteen* as it is pronounced.

**too**. Distinguish from **to** and from **two**.

**tool** (an implement), distinguish from **tulle** (gauze-like dress-goods).

**tooth**, changes the *o*'s to *e*'s in the plural **teeth**.

**top** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **topped**, **top'ping**.

**tope** (a shrine, dome, or tower), distinguish from **taupe** (a mole or the color of mole-skin).

**tope** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toped**, **top'ing**, and before *-er* in the noun **top'er**.

**To-pe'ka**, not *Topeeka*.

**top'sy-tur'vy**, not *topsey-turvey*.

**toque**, not *toke* as it is pronounced.

**tor-men'tor** is preferred to **tor-men'ter**, but both are in use.

**tor-na'do** adds *es* in forming the plural **tor-na'does**.

**tor'por**, not *torper*.

**torque** (an armlet or a necklace), not *tork*.

**tor'rent**, not *torrant*.

**tor'toise**, not *tortus*.

**tor'ture** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tor'tured**, **tor'tur-ing**.

**to'tal**. The participles are spelt **to'taled** or **to'talled**, **to'tal-ing** or **to'tal-ing**.

**touch**. Note that the *o* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and O.

**tough**, not *tuf* as it is pronounced. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, O and UGH.

**tout**, not *taut*. See OÜ.

**tow**. Distinguish from **toe**.

- to'ward, to'wards.** Note that the *w* is silent. See **W**.  
**tow'el.** The participles of this verb are spelt **tow'eled** or **tow'elled**, **tow'el-ing** or **tow'el-ling**. The noun (crash for towels) is spelt **towel'ing** or **towel'ling**.  
**toy** retains the *y* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **toyed**, **toy'ing**.  
**trace** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **traced**, **trac'ing**, but retains it before *-able* in the adjective **trace'a-ble**.  
**track** (a path), distinguish from **tract** (a short treatise). **trac'tor**, not *tracter*.  
**trade** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trad'ed**, **trad'ing**.  
**traf'fic** adds *k* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **traf'ficked**, **traf'fick-ing**.  
**trag'e-dy**, not *tragedy*.  
**trail, train, trait, trai'tor.** In all these words the *i* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and I.  
**tra-jec'to-ry**, not *trajectory* or *trajectery*.  
**tram'mel.** The participles of this verb are spelt **tram'meled**, or **tram'melled**; **tram'mel-ing** or **tram'mel-ling**.  
**tran'quil** doubles the *l* in **tran-qui'lli-ty** and **tran-qui'lly**.  
**tran'quil-ize, tran'quil-lize, tran'quil-ise, tran'-quil-lise.** All these forms are used, but the first is preferred in the United States, and the third and fourth in Great Britain.  
**tran-scend'**, not *transend*.  
**tran-scribe'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tran-scribed'**, **tran-scrib'ing**.  
**trans-fer'** doubles the final *r* in forming the participles **trans-ferred'**, **trans-fer'ring**.  
**trans-fer'a-ble**, not *transferrable*.  
**trans-late'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trans-lat'ed**, **trans-lat'ing**.  
**trans-mis'si-ble**, not *transmissable*.  
**trans-mit'** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **trans-mit'ted**, **trans-mit'ting**, and in the noun **trans-mit'ter**.  
**trans-mit'ti-ble**, not *transmittable*.  
**trans-mute'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trans-mut'ed**, **trans-mut'ing** and before *-able* in the adjective **trans-mut'a-ble**.

trans-par'ence, not *transpairence*.

trap *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles trapped, trap'ping.

trav'ail (anguish; distress), distinguish from trav'el (to journey).

trav'el. The participles of this verb are spelt trav'eled or trav'elled, trav'el-ing or trav'el-ling. The single *l* form is preferred in the United States, the two *l* form prevails in Great Britain.

trav'e-ler, trav'el-ler. Both forms are used, but the first prevails in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

trav'es-ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural trav'es-ties. See PLURALS OF NOUNS.

tray (a flat shallow utensil), distinguish from trey (a card or die with three spots).

tread *changes* to trod in the preterit and to trod'den in the past participle, but takes -ing in forming the present participle tread'ing.

treasure, trea'sur-er. Note that the *a* in these words is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and EA, p. 75.

treat'ise (written composition), distinguish from trea'-ties (plural of TREATY).

trea'ty *changes* the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural trea'ties.

tree (a woody plant), distinguish from three (a number).

tree (v.) *drops* the final *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles treed, tree'ing.

tre'foil, not treefoil as it is pronounced.

tre-pan' *doubles* the *n* in forming the participles tre-panned', tre-pan'ning.

tres'tle, not tressel as it is pronounced. Note that the second *t* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and T.

trey. Distinguish from TRAY.

tri-chi'na. In this word *ch* has the sound of *k*. See CH. tricks (antics; jokes), distinguish from -trix (a suffix denoting the feminine gender, as in executor (masculine), executrix (feminine)).

tri'cy-cle, not trycycle.

tri-en'ni-al, not triannual.

trim *doubles* the *m* in forming the participles trimmed, trim'ming. Also before -er in the noun trim'mer.

trip *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles tripped, trip'ping, and before -er in the noun trip'per.

**trip**'le drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trip**'led, **trip**'ling, and before *-ly* in the adverb **trip**'ly.

**trip**'li-cate, not *triplicate*.

**trite**, not *tright*. See BITE, BRIGHT, KITE, LIGHT, MITE, NIGHT, etc.

**trol**'ley, not *trolly*.

**tro**'phy. Note that *ph* has the sound of *f*. See PH. The *y* change to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **tro**'phies.

**trot** doubles the *t* in forming the participles **trot**'ted, **trot**'ting, and before *-er* in the noun **trot**'ter.

**troub**'le drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **troub**'led, **troub**'ling, and before *-er* in the noun **troub**'ler.

**trough**, not *trof* as it is pronounced. See GH and UGH.

**trou**'sers, not *trowers*.

**trous**'seau', not *trusso* as it is pronounced.

**trudge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **trudged**, **trudg**'ing, NOT *trudgeing*.

**true** drops the *e* before *-ly* in forming the adverb **tru**'ly, NOT *truely*.

**true** (*v.*) drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **true**'ed, **tru**'ing.

**tru**'ism, not *trueism*.

**trun**'nion, not *tronion* or *trunyon*.

**try** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **try**'ing.

**tset**'se (an injurious South African fly whose bite causes disease in cattle and horses). This word is spelt also **tzet**'ze.

**tub** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **tubbed**, **tub**'bing.

**tube** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tubed**, **tub**'ing.

**tu**-ber'cu-lar, not *tuberculer*.

**tu**'ber-ose (bearing tubers), distinguish from **tube**'rose' (a flowering plant) and from **tu**'ber-ous (bearing tubers).

**tu**'bu-lar, not *tubuler*.

**Tuc**-son', not *Tuson* as it is usually pronounced.

**tug** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **tugged**, **tug**'ging, and before *-er* in the noun **tug**'ger.

- tum'ble** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tum'bled**, **tum'bling**.
- tu'me-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **tu'me-fied**, but retains it before *-ing* in **tu'me-fy'ing**.
- tu-mid'i-ty** changes the *y* to *ies* in forming the plural **tu-mid'i-ties**.
- tu'mu-lus** changes the *us* to *i* in forming the plural **tu'mu-li**.
- tun** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **tunned**, **tun'ning**.
- tu'mor**, **tu'mour**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.
- tun** (a large cask), distinguish from **ton** (a measure of weight).
- tune** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tuned**, **tun'ing** (NOT *tuneing*), and before *-able* in the adjective **tun'a-ble**.
- tung'sten**, not *longuesten*. The word is from the Swedish *tung*, weighty, and *sten*, stone.
- tun'nel**. The participles of this verb are spelt **tun'neled** or **tun'nelled**; **tun'nel-ing** or **tun'nel-ling**. The noun is spelt **tun'el-er** or **tun'nel-ler**.
- tur'bine**, not *turbin*.
- tur'bu-lent**, not *turbulant*.
- tu'tor**, not *tuter*.
- tur'key** adds *s* in forming the plural **tur'keys**, NOT *turkies*.
- tu'yère'**, not *twyere* or *twyeer*.
- tweed**, not *twead* or *tweede*.
- twine** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **twined**, **twin'ing**.
- twinge** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **twinged**, **twing'ing**, NOT *twingeing*.
- two**. Distinguish from *to* and *too*.
- ty'phoid**. Note that *ph* has the sound of *f*. See **PH**.
- tyr'an-nise**, **tyr'an-nize**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States. Both verbs drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **tyr'an-nised** or **-nized**, **tyr'an-nis'ing** or **-niz'ing**.
- Tyre** (an ancient Phenician city), distinguish from **tire** (I. *v.* To fatigue. II. *n.* The rim of a wheel, etc.).
- tzet'ze**. A variant of **TSETSE**.

## U

- u.** In English spelling this letter is used normally to represent its own sound, as heard in *full*, *rule*, *but*, *burn*. These sounds, however, occur in many words which do not contain the letter itself, and are indicated by various combinations as (1) *ew* in *brew*, *crew*, *grew* etc.; (2) *oo* in *book*, *cook*, *hook*, etc.; (3) *oo* in *cool*, *food*, *loom*, etc.; (4) *o* before *m*, *me*, *n*, *ne*, *ng*, *th*, and *z*, as in *among*, *come*, *son*, *done*, *tongue*, *nothing*, *brother*, *dozen*, etc.; (5) *oe* as in *does*, etc.; (6) *ou* as in *double*, etc.; (7) *ou* as in *group*, etc.; (8) *u* as in *duration*, *avenue*; (9) *ui* in *bruise*, *cruise*, *fruit*, etc.
- ue.** A digraph that occurs in *catalogue*, *demagogue*, *dialogue*, *monologue*, *prologue*, etc., as spelt in England, but widely discarded in the United States under the influence of the late Dr. Isaac K. Funk, founder and editor-in-chief of the "New Standard Dictionary," whose work defines the words under the simpler spellings; *catalog*, *demagog*, *dialog*, *monolog*, *prolog*, etc.
- ugh.** A trigraph that occurs in many English words which (1) is retained in spelling but not heard in pronunciation as in *although* (*altho*); *though* (*tho*); *thorough* (*thoro*), etc.; or (2) is pronounced variously as in *cough* (*cof*); *trough* (*trof*); *bough* (*bow*); *slough* (*slow* or *sluff*); *chough* (*chuff*); *enough* (*enuf*), etc.
- ug'ly** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative *ug'li-er*, *ug'li-est*, and before *-ly* in the adverb *ug'li-ly*.
- U'kraine**, not *Ukraine*.
- U-krain'i-an**, not *Ukranean*.
- um'ber** (a chestnut-brown color), distinguish from **um'bra** (a region of shadow from which light is entirely cut off).
- um-brel'la**, not *umberella*.
- um'laut**, not *umlaut*.
- un-**. A prefix having negative force common in English, and frequently used as an alternative of *in-* as *inadvisable*, *unadvisable*, both words meaning "not advisable." Its presence does not affect the spelling of the basic word with which it is combined.
- un-couth**, not *uncuth* as it is pronounced.
- un'der-bred**, not *underbread*.

**un'der-neath'**, not *underneath*.

**un'der-write'**. See under **WRITE**.

**un'du-late** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **un'du-lat'ed**, **un'du-lat'ing**.

**un-e'qualed** or **un-e'qualified**. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain. See **EQUAL**.

**u'ni-fy** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **u'ni-fied**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **u'ni-fy'ing**.

**u-nite'** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **u-nit'ed**, **u-nit'ing**.

**u'ni-ver'sal**, not *universal* for **u'ni-verse** drops the final *e* before *-al*.

**u'ni-ver'si-ty** changes the *y* to *i* before *-es* in forming the plural **u'ni-ver'si-ties**.

**un-sal'a-ble**, not *unsaleable*.

**un-til'**, not *untill*.

**up**. This word is frequently used in combination with a root-word, giving it adverbial force as, **up-bear'** (to bear up). When so used it does not affect the spelling of the root-word which see in its place in the vocabulary.

**up-braid'**, not *upbrade*.

**up'ward**, **up'wards**. Both forms are in use.

**u-ra'ni-um**, not *uraneum*.

**ur'ban** (pertaining to a city), distinguish from **ur'bane** (polite; refined).

**urn** (a vase-like vessel for ashes, tea, coffee, etc.), distinguish from **earn** (to gain by labor).

**-us** is a noun suffix that in English means "that which" as in *exodus*, "that which goes out". The suffix is to be distinguished from **-ous**, an adjectival termination designating "having," as *odorous*, "having smell," etc. See **-ous**, p. 11.

**us'a-ble**, **use'a-ble**. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**us'age**, not *useage*.

**us'ance**, not *useance*.

**use** (to employ) and **use** (the act of using) are both spelt alike, but the second is pronounced as if spelt *uze*. Distinguish the first from **ewes** (female sheep) and from **Hughes** (a surname) in which the initial *h* is aspirated.

**u'su-al**, not *uzual*.

**u-surp'** not *uzurp*.

**u'su-ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **u'su-ries**.

**U'tah**, not *Utaw*.

**u-ten'sil**, not *utensile*.

**u'til-ise**, **u'til-ize** drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **u'til-ised** or **u'til-ized**; **u'til-is'ing** or **u'til-iz'ing**. Both forms are in use; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

**u'til-i-ty** changes the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **u-til'i-ties**.

**ut'ter-ance**, not *utterence*.

**u'vu-la**, not *uvala*.

## V

**v**. This letter indicates its own sound, as in *vat*, *have*. Most English *v*'s, especially initial, are in words from the French or Latin. *V* has a single invariable sound, which is like that of *f*, but duller: as *fan*, *van*; *ferry*, *very*, etc. Nearly all the *v*'s in modern English in words from Anglo-Saxon are from *f*'s made sonant by coming between two sonants, as in *leaf*, *leaves*; *half*, *halves*.

**va'cate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **va'cat-ed**, **va'cat-ing**.

**vac'ci-nate**, not *vaccinate*. This verb drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vac'ci-nat'ed**, **vac'ci-nat'ing**.

**vac'ci-na'tor**, not *vaccinator*.

**vac'cine**, not *vaccin*.

**vac'il-late** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vac'il-lat'ed**, **vac'il-lat'ing**. Note that the words have but one *c* and two *l*'s.

**vac'u-um** forms the plural by adding *s*, **vac'u-ums**, or by changing *um* to *a*, **vac'u-a**. Note that these words have but one *c*.

**va-ga'ry**, not *vaguary*. The *y* changes to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **va'ga-ries**. Compare *VAGUE*.

**vague** (indefinite; not clear), distinguish from **vaig** (I. *n.* A wanderer. II. *v.* To wander).

**vail** (submission; a giving place), distinguish from **vale** (a valley) and **veil** (a gossamer-like fabric to protect the face).

**vain** (conceited; showy; empty), distinguish from **vane** (a weathercock) and from **vein** (a blood-vessel).



**val'ance** (hanging drapery), distinguish from **va'lence** (the strength of a chemical element).

**vale**. Distinguish from **vail** and **veil**.

**val'e-dic'to-ry**, not *valadictory*.

**Va-len'ciennes'**. Note that the *s* is not pronounced.

**val'en-tine**, not *valantine*.

**val'et**. In the United States pronounced as printed, but in France and Great Britain the *t* is silent and the *e* is given the sound of *e* in "they."

**val'e-tu'di-na'ri-an**, not *valitudinarian*.

**val'e-tu'di-na-ry**, not *valetudinery*.

**val'iant**, not *valliant*.

**val'id**, not *vallid*.

**va-lid'i-ty**, not *vallidity*.

**val'ley**, not *vally*. The plural is formed by adding *s*, **val'leys**, not *vallies*.

**val'or**, **val'our**. Both forms are used; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**val'or-i-sa'tion**, **val'or-i-za'-tion**. Both forms are used; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States.

**Val'pa-rai'so**, not *Valparizo*.

**val'u-a-ble**, not *valueable*.

**val'ue** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **val'ued**, **val'u-ing**, not *valueing*.

**van** doubles the *n* in forming the participles **vanned**, **van'ning**.

**Van Dyck**, not *Van Dyke* or *Vandyke*. In the adjective the two words are combined as one word, **Van-dyck'** (pertaining to Van Dyck or his work).

**vane**. Distinguish from **vain** and **vein**.

**van'guard**, not *vanguard*.

**va-nil'la**, not *vanila*.

**van'i-ty** changes the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural **van'i-ties**.

**va'por**, **va'pour**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**va'por-i-za'tion**, not *vaporisation*.

**va'por-ize**, not *vaporise* or *vapourize*.

**va'ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **var'ied**, and before *-able* in the adjective **va'ri-a-ble**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in forming the present participle **va'ry-ing**,

**va'ry** (to change partially), distinguish from **ver'y** (real; actual).

**vase**. A word that is pronounced variously *vahze*, *vays*, *veyze*, and *vorze*, but its spelling is **vase**.

**vas'sal** (a dependant or retainer), not *vassil*. Distinguish from **ves'sel** (a receptacle; also a ship).

**vaude'ville**, not *veaudeville*.

**veal**. Note that the *a* is silent. See **EA**, p. 75.

**veg'e-ta-ble**, not *vegetible* or *vegetable*.

**ve'he-ment**. Sometimes the *h* in this word is not aspirated, but it should always be retained in the spelling.

**ve'hi-cle**. The *h* in this word is not commonly aspirated, but should always be retained in the spelling.

**veil** (a gossamer-like fabric), distinguish from **vail** (submission; act of giving place) and from **vale** (a valley).

**vein** (a blood-vessel), distinguish from **vain** (proud; profitless), and from **vane** (a weathercock).

**ve-lours'** (velvet), distinguish from **vel'ure** (any fabric that resembles velvet or velveteen, especially of linen, silk, or jute).

**ve'nal** (ready to sell; purchasable), distinguish from **ve'ni-al** (that may be pardoned or overlooked).

**ven'der**, not *vendör*.

**ven-due'**, not *vendew*.

**ve-neer'**, not *venear*.

**ven'geance**, not *vengeance* or *vangiance*. Compare **ALLE-GIANCE**.

**ve'ni-al**, not *veneal*.

**ve-ni're**, not *veniree*.

**ven'i-son**, not *venson*.

**ven'ti-late**, not *ventillate*. This verb drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ven'ti-lat"ed**, **ven'ti-lat"ing**.

**ven"ti-la'tion**, not *ventillation*.

**ven'ti-la"tor**, not *ventilater*.

**ven'ture** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **ven'tured**, **ven'tur-ing**.

**ven'ure**, not *venew*.

**ve-ra'cious** (truthful), distinguish from **vo-ra'cious** (ravenous; gluttonous).

**va-rac'i-ty**, not *veracity*.

**ve-ran'da** or **ve-ran'dah**, not *varanda* which is the Hindustani form.

**ver'dant**, not *verdent*.

ver'di-gris, not *verdigrease*.

Ver'dun', not *Verdoon*.

ver'dure (green color), distinguish from ver'ger (a mace-bearer).

verg'ing (approaching toward), distinguish from vir'gin (a maiden).

ver'i-fy changes the *y* to *i* before -ed in forming the past participle ver'i-fied, but retains it before -ing in the present participle ver'i-fy'ing.

ver'meil (silver or bronze gilt), not *vermeille* or *vermil* as it is pronounced.

ver'mouth, ver'muth. Both forms are in use.

Ver-sailles', not *Versaille* or *Versales* as it is sometimes pronounced.

ver'sa-tile, not *versatil*.

versed (completely familiar with; proficient), distinguish from verst (a Russian measure of distance).

ver'ses (metrical composition in poetry), distinguish from ver'sus (against: a Latin law term).

ver'te-bra changes the *a* to *æ* in forming the plural ver'te-bræ.

ver'tex changes the -tex to -tices in forming the plural ver'ti-ces, or simply adds -es, ver'tex-es.

ver'ti-cal (perpendicular), distinguish from ver'ti-cle, obsolete spelling of ver'ti-cil (whorl).

ver'vain, not *vervein*.

ver'y (real, actual), distinguish from va'ry (to change partially).

Ves-puc'ci (A'me-ri'go), not *Vespucchi*.

vet'er-i-na-ry, not *veterinery*.

vi'a (a highway) changes the *a* to the diphthong *æ* in forming the plural vi'æ, but the word is usually used prepositionally, and means "by way of."

vial (a small bottle: spelt also phi'al), distinguish from vile (base; wicked) and from viol (a musical instrument).

vi'brate drops the *e* before -ed and -ing in forming the participles vi'brat-ed, vi'brat-ing.

vice (I. n. 1. A deputy; substitute. 2. Depravity), distinguish from vies (contends) and from vise (a clamping device).

vice"-reine', not *vicerine*.

The viceroy and vicereine left for the opening of the parliament at 10 o'clock.—*The Globe*, New York, June 7, 1921.

vi'ce ver'sa, not *visee versa*.

**vi-cis'si-tude**, not *visissitude*.

**vic'tim-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vic'ti-mized**, **vic'ti-miz'ing**.

**vie** drops the *e* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **vied**, and changes the *ie* to *y* before *-ing* in the present participle **vy'ing**.

**vies**. Distinguish from **VICE** and **VISE**.

**vi-gnette'** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi-gnet'ted**, **vi-gnet'ting**.

**vig'or**, **vig'our**. Both forms are correct.

**vile** (base; wicked), distinguish from **vial** (a small bottle), **viol** (a musical instrument).

**vil'i-fy**, not *villify*. This verb changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **vil'i-fied**, but retains it before *-ing* in **vil'i-fy'ing**.

**vil'lain**, not *vilain*.

**vil'lous** (covered with nap or short soft hairs), distinguish from **vil'lus** (close, short, soft hair).

**vin'al-grette'**, not *vinagrette* or *vinegarette*.

**vin'di-cate** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vin'di-cat'ed**, **vin'di-cat'ing**.

**vin'e-gar**, not *vinniger*.

**vi'o-late** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi'o-lat'ed**, **vi'o-lat'ing**.

**vi'o-la"tor**, not *violater*.

**vi'o-let**, not *violette*.

**vi-ra'go**, not *viraygo*.

**vir'gin** (a maiden), distinguish from **verg'ing** (tending).

**vir-tu'** (rare, curious, beautiful quality, used in combination; as, "articles of *virtu*"), distinguish from **vir'tue** (moral excellence).

**visable**. Misspelling of **VISIBLE**.

**vis"à-vis'**, not *viz-a-vee* as it is pronounced.

**vis'count**, **vis'count-ess**. Note that the *s* is silent in both of these words. See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 3, and S.

**vi-sé'**, not *vizé* as it is pronounced. The participles of this verb are spelt **vi-séed'**, **vi-sé'ing**.

**vise**. Distinguish from **VICE** and **VIES**.

**vis'i-ble**, not *visable*.

**vis'u-al-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vis'u-al-ized**, **vis'u-al-iz'ing**.

**vi'tal-ize** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **vi'tal-ized**, **vi'tal-iz'ing**.

- vi'ta-mine", vi'tam-in. Both forms are in use, the pronunciation differing according to the spelling. Dr. Thomas Lathrop Stedman prefers vi'ta-mine", Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, vi'tam-in.
- vit'i-cul"ture, not *vitaculture*.
- vit're-ous, not *vitrious*.
- vit'ri-ol, not *vitrol*, a common mispronunciation.
- vi-va'cious, not *vivaceous*.
- vi'va vo'ce, not *viva vosee* as it is pronounced.
- vo-cab'u-la-ry, not *vocabulery*.
- vo'cal-ize drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles vo'cal-ized, vo'cal-iz"ing.
- vogue (the prevalent fashion), distinguish from *vague* (indefinite; dreamy).
- vol'ume, not *volyum*.
- vol'un-ta-ry, not *voluntary*.
- vo-lup'tu-a-ry, not *voluptuary*.
- vom'it does not double the *t* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles vom'it-ed, vom'it-ing.
- vo-ra'cious (greedy; ravenous), distinguish from *vera-cious* (truthful).
- vor'tex adds *es* in forming the plural vor'tex-es, or changes *-tex* to *-tices* in vor'ti-ces.
- vo'ta-ry, not *votery*. The *y* changes to *i* before *es* in forming the plural vo'ta-ries.
- vote drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles vot'ed, vot'ing.
- vow'el. The participles of this verb are spelt vow'el-ed or vow'el-led; vow'el-ing or vow'el-ling.
- voy'age drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles voy'aged, voy'ag-ing.
- voy"a'geur', not *voyazure*.
- vul'can-ise, vul'can-ize. Both forms are used; the first in Great Britain, the second in the United States, and both drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles vul'can-ised or vul'can-ized; vul'can-is'ing or vul'can-iz"ing.
- vul'ner-a-ry, not *vulnerery*. The noun changes the *y* to *i* before *es* in forming the plural vul'ner-a-ries.
- vy'ing, not *vieing*.

## W

**w.** This letter usually indicates its own sound. Initial *w* is always silent before *r*, as in *wrack*, *wraith*, *wrangle*, *wrap*, *wreak*, *wreck*, *write*, *wrote*, *wrung*, *wry*, etc.; it is silent also sometimes before *h*, as in *who*, *whoever*, *whole*, *whom*, *whoop*, etc. It is silent also in *awry*, *owe*, *sword*, *toward*, *two*, *answer*, etc.

In words from the German pronounced *v*, as *Wagner*, but in proper names the Anglicized form is frequently used.

**wab'ble**, **wob'ble**. Both forms are in use and drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wab'bled** or **wob'bled**; **wab'bling** or **wob'bling**.

**wab'bler**, **wob'bler**. Both forms are in use.

**wad** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **wad'ded**, **wad'ding**.

**wad'dle**, not *woddle*. The *e* is dropped before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wad'dled**, **wad'dling**.

**wade** (walk in water), distinguish from **weighed** (past participle and past tense of **WEIGH**).

**wag** doubles the *g* in forming the participles **wagged**, **wag'ging**.

**wage** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **waged**, **wag'ing**.

**wag'ing** (engaging in conflict), distinguish from **wag'ging** (moving back and forth).

**wag'on**, **wag'gon**. Both forms are in use; the first in the United States, the second in Great Britain.

**wag'on-ette**, **wag'gon-ette**. Both forms are in use.

**wag'tail**, not *wagtale*.

**waif**. Note that the *i* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and I.

**wail** (to lament), distinguish from **whale** (a large marine mammal), and from **wale** (a ridge or stripe).

**wain** (a wagon), distinguish from **wane** (decrease).

**wain'scot**. The participles of this verb are spelt **wain'scot-ed** or **wain'scot-ted**; **wain'scot-ing** or **wain'scot-ting**.

**waist** (the central part of the body between the chest and the hips), distinguish from **waste** (I. *n.* Remainder).

II. *v.* To squander).

**wait** (to stay for), distinguish from **weight** (I. *n.* Mass.

II. *v.* To make heavier).

**waive** *drops the e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles waived, waiv'ing.*

**waive** (to relinquish; quit), distinguish from **wave** (a billow).

**waiv'er** (voluntary relinquishment of a right), distinguish from **wa'ver** (to sway; falter).

**wake** *drops the e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles waked and wak'ing.* This verb has **woke** as an alternative past participle.

**wale** *drops the e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles waled, wal'ing.* Distinguish from **WAIL** and **WHALE**.

**wal'la-by**, not *wollaby*.

**wan'der** (to ramble here and there), distinguish from **won'der** (to marvel at).

**wane** (decrease) *drops the e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles waned, wan'ing.* Distinguish from **wain** (a wagon).

**wap'i-ti**, not *wopiti*.

**war** *doubles the r in forming the participles warred, war'ring.*

**ware** (merchandise), distinguish from **wear** (to waste from use), and from **were** (had been).

**wasp**, not *waps* or *wosp*.

**waste** *drops the e before -ed and -ing in forming the participles wast'ed, wast'ing, but retains it before -ful in the adjective waste'ful.*

**waste** (squander), distinguish from **waist** (the central part of the body between the chest and the hips).

**wave** (I. *n.* A billow. II. *v.* To move to and fro through the air), distinguish from **waive** (I. *n.* A relinquishing. II. *v.* To relinquish).

**wa'ver** (to sway; falter), distinguish from **waiv'er** (a relinquishment of a right).

**way** (a pass; a road), distinguish from **whey** (watery part of milk), **weigh** (to balance), and from **wey** (forty bushels).

**we** (you and I), distinguish from **wee** (little).

**weak** (feeble). Note that the *a* is silent and distinguish from **week** (a period of seven days). See **SILENT LETTERS**, p. 1, and **EA**.

**weald** (an open region; a grove; also waste woodland). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **wield** (to handle). See **EA**.

**wealth**, not *welth* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent.  
**wean** (to withdraw from), distinguish from **ween** (a fancy). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and **EA**.

**weap'on**, not *wepon* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent.

**wear** (to waste from use). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **ware** (merchandise), and from **were** (had been). See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and **EA**.

**wear**. The participles of this verb are irregular, the preterit is **wore**; the past participle **worn**; the present participle **wear'ing**.

**wea'ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **wea'ried**, but *retains* it before *-ing* in the present participle **wea'ry-ing**. The *y* is changed to *i* in forming the derivatives **wea'ri-ly**, **wea'ri-ness**, **wea'ri-some**, **wea'ri-some-ly**, **wea'ri-some-ness**.

**wea'sel**, not *weezel* as it is pronounced, the *a* being silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1, and **EA**. Compare **WEEVIL**.

**weath'er** (state of the atmosphere). Note that the *a* is silent, and distinguish from **weth'er** (a sheep). Compare **WHETHER**!

**weave**, not *weeve*. This verb drops the final *e* in forming the participles **weaved**, **weav'ing**. *Weave* has other irregular forms as the preterit, **wove** or **weaved**, and the past participle **wo'ven**, **wove**, or **weaved**.

**web** doubles the *b* in forming the participles **webbed**, **web'bing**.

**wed** doubles the *d* in forming the participles **wed'ded**, **wed'ding**.

**wedge** drops the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wedged**, **wedg'ing**.

**wedg'wood**, not *wedgewood*.

**Wednes'day**, not *Wenzday* as it is pronounced. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Wodnes* genitive singular of *Woden*, and *dæg*, day.

**wee**. Distinguish from **wē**.

**week** (seven days), distinguish from **weak** (feeble). Note that the *a* in the latter word is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 1.

**ween** (a fancy), distinguish from **wean** (to withdraw from).

**weep** changes to **wept** in the past participle, but takes *-ing* in forming the present participle **weep'ing**.

**wee'vil**, not *weevil*. Compare **WEASEL**.



**weigh** (to find the mass of; also, ponder about), distinguish from **whey** (the watery straw-colored liquid obtained from curdled milk), **way** (a road or path), and from **wey** (a unit of weight).

**weight** (pressure; mass), distinguish from **wait** (remain in one place; stand in readiness).

**weight'y** changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative **weight'i-er**, **weight'i-est**.

**weird**, not *wearied* or *wierd*. See **EX** and **IE**, p. 7.

**wel'come**, not *wellcome*.

**wel'fare**, not *wellfare*.

**were** (had been), distinguish from **whir** (a wizzing sound).

**West'min-ster**, not *Westminister*.

**wet** (to moisten with liquid), distinguish from **whet** (to sharpen). Both verbs double the *t* in forming the participles **wet'ted** or **wet**, **wet'ting**; **whet'ted**, **whet'ting**.

**weth'er** (a sheep), distinguish from **weath'er** (the state of the atmosphere).

**wey** (a unit of weight), distinguish from **way** (a road or path), and from **weigh** (to test the mass of).

**wh.** This digraph occurs in a number of English words and is sometimes pronounced as if inverted, as **whack**, pronounced as if spelt *hwack*, **whale**—as if spelt *hwale*.

Occurring before *h* the letter *w* is sometimes pronounced as if it were after it as *hoo-y*, *why*, *hoo-en*, *when*, etc.; but in *whole*, *whoop*, etc., the single and double *o* coalescing with the same sound in *w*, the letter *w* is scarcely perceptible.

In many words *wh* is pronounced as *hw* in the United States, in northern England, in Ireland, in Scotland, and in Wales, as well as in some of the British dominions, but in southern England, especially in London, the *h* is silent, no distinction being made between *what* and *watt*, *wen*, *where* and *wear*, *while* and *wile*, *whoa* and *wo*, etc.

**whack**, not *wack*.

**whale** (a large marine mammal), distinguish from **wale** (a ridge or stripe as from a blow), or from **wail** (to lament).

**wharf** changes the *f* to *v* and *es* is added to form the plural **wharves**.

**what**, not *whot*. See **WH**.

**wheel** (a wale, raised mark, or welt), distinguish from **wheel** (a rotating disk).

**wheat**. Note that the *a* is silent and that the letters *wh* are transposed in pronunciation, but not in spelling. See **WH**.

**whee'dle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whee'dled**, **whee'dling**.

**wheel**. Distinguish from **WHEEL**.

**where** (at what place?), distinguish from **wear** (to attire oneself in, as a garment).

**whet** (to sharpen), distinguish from **wet** (to moisten with liquid). See under **WET**.

**wheth'er** (in case; if), distinguish from **weath'er** (the state of the atmosphere).

**whew** (the straw-colored watery liquid obtained from curdled milk), distinguish from **weigh** (to find the mass of; also, ponder about), or from **way** (a road or path), and from **wey** (a unit of weight).

**which** (what person or thing), distinguish from **witch** (a sorceress).

**while** (to spend lightly and pleasantly, as time), distinguish from **wile** (to mislead or beguile). Both verbs drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whiled**, **whil'ing**; **wiled**, **wil'ing**.

**whine** (to make a plaintive cry, as a child or an animal), distinguish from **wine** (I. *n.* The juice of the grape fermented or unfermented. II. *v.* To supply wine to). Both verbs drop the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **whined**, **whin'ing**; **wined**, **win'ing**.

**whin'ny** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in the past participle **whin'nied**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **whin'ny-ing**.

**whip** doubles the *p* in forming the participles **whipped**, **whip'ping**, and the noun **whip'per**.

**whir** doubles the *r* in forming the participles **whirred**, **whir'ring**. This verb is sometimes spelt **whirr**.

**whisk-broom**, **wisp-broom**. Both forms are in use, but not *whisp-broom* which is an erroneous form of the latter.

**whis'ky**, **whis'key**. Both forms are in use, but the first changes the *y* to *i* and adds *es* in forming the plural, but in the second form only *s* is added.

- whith'er (to what place), distinguish from with'er (to fade).
- whit'tle drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles whit'tled, whit'tling.
- whiz doubles the *z* in forming the participles whizzed, whizz'ing.
- whole (entire; complete), distinguish from hole (an opening).
- whole drops the *e* before *-ly*, whol'ly, not *wholely*.
- whol'ly (completely; entirely), distinguish from ho'ly (sacred).
- whoop (a hoot; a loud noise), distinguish from hoop (a circular band).
- wich'ha"zel, witch'-ha"zel. Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.
- wield (to handle), distinguish from weald (an open region; a groove; also, waste woodland).
- wierd. Misspelling of weird.
- wife changes the *fe* to *ves* in forming the plural wives.
- wile. Distinguish from WHILE.
- wil'ful, not *willful* or *willfull*.
- win changes the *i* to *o* in forming the past participle won, and doubles the *n* before *-ing* in the present participle win'ning.
- wind'y changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative wind'i-er, wind'i-est.
- wine. Distinguish from WHINE.
- Win'ni-peg, not *Winipeg*.
- wipe drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles wiped, wip'ing, not *wipeing*.
- wir'i-ly, not *wirely*.
- wis'dom. The *s* in this word is pronounced like *z*. See S.
- wise drops the *e* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative wis'er, wis'est, and before *-dom* in the noun wis'dom.
- with-al', not *withall*.
- with'er (to fade), distinguish from whith'er (to what place).
- with-hold', not *withold*.
- wit'ty changes the *y* to *i* before *-er* and *-est* in forming the comparative and superlative wit'ti-er, wit'ti-est.
- wives. Plural of WIFE.
- wiz'ard, not *wizzard*.

**wo, woe.** Both forms are in use.

**woe'ful, wo'ful.** Both forms are in use.

**wolf** changes the *f* to *ves* in forming the plural **wolves**. Distinguish from **Wolfe** (English general; killed at Quebec).

**wol"ver-ene', wol"ver-ine'.** Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**wo'man** changes the *a* to *e* to form the plural **wo'men**.

**womb.** Note that the *b* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and B.

**won** (gained), distinguish from **one** (a single thing).

**wood** (lumber), distinguish from **would** (desired), in which the *o* and *l* are silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2 and 3.

**wool'en, wool'len.** Both forms are in use.

**work** has two past participles **worked** or **wrought**. See O. **world**, not *wurld*.

**worm**, not *wurm*.

**wor'ry** changes the *y* to *i* before *-ed* in forming the past participle **wor'ried**, but retains it before *-ing* in the present participle **wor'ry-ing**.

**wor'ship.** The participles of this verb are spelt **wor'shiped** or **wor'shipped**, **wor'ship-ing** or **wor'ship-ping**. The noun is spelt **wor'ship-er** or **wor'ship-per**.

**worst**, not *wurst*. See O.

**wors'ted**, not *woosted*. See O.

**wort**, not *wurt*. See O.

**worth**, not *wurth*. See O.

**would.** Distinguish from **wood**.

**wound** (an injury or a hurt, as a cut), not *wund* as it is pronounced (*u* as in "rule"). Distinguish from **wound** (did wind) pronounced to rime with *round*.

**wr.** A digraph in which the *w* is silent. It occurs in many English words.

**wrack** (destruction), distinguish from **rack** (to torture). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wran'gle** (I. *n.* A dispute. II. *v.* To dispute angrily), distinguish from **Wran'gel** (1. Russian general. 2. A mountain in Alaska). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wrap** (an outer garment; to infold), distinguish from **rap** (to strike). Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wrap** *doubles* the *p* in forming the participles **wrapped**, **wrap'ping**, and in the noun **wrap'per**. The *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wrath** Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wrath'ful**, not *wrathfull*.

**wreak** (to exercise vengeance), distinguish from **reek** (steam; vapor).

**wreath** (a circular band of leaves or flowers), distinguish from **wreathe** (to make into a wreath) which *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in **wreathed**, **wreath'ing**. See EA, p. 75.

**wreck** (to ruin; destroy), distinguish from **reck** (to heed; to care).

**wren**, **wrench**. Note that the *w* is silent. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 3, and W.

**wrest** (to twist; wrench), distinguish from **rest** (peace; quiet).

**wrest'le** *drops* the final *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wrest'led**, **wrest'ling**. In these words and the noun **wrest'ler**, the *w* is silent.

**wretch** (a despicable person), distinguish from **retch** (to try to vomit). See W.

**wretch'ed**, not *retched*. The *w* is silent. See W.

**wright** (a mechanic), distinguish from **write** (to inscribe with a pen or pencil), or **right** (correct; true) and from **rite** (a ceremony).

**wring** (to twist), distinguish from **ring** (I. *v.* To sound. II. *n.* A circle).

**wring'er** (a machine that squeezes water out of a fabric), distinguish from **ring'er** (one who rings a bell or the like). See W.

**wrin'kle** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **wrin'kled**, **wrin'kling**. See W.

**wrist**, not *rist*. The *w* is silent. See W.

**write** (to inscribe), distinguish from **right** (correct; true), or **rite** (a ceremony), and from **wright** (a mechanic). See W.

**write** *changes* the *i* to *o* in forming the preterit **wrote**, *drops* the *e* and adds *-ten* to form the past participle **writ'ten** and *drops* the *e* before *-ing* in the present participle **writ'ing**, not *writeing*. See W.

**writhe** *drops* the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **writhed**, **writh'ing**.

- wrong**, not *rong*. Note that the *w* is silent. See **W**.  
**wrote** (did write), distinguish from **rote** (mechanical repetition).  
**wrung** (twisted), distinguish from **rung** (I. *a*. Sounded. II. *n*. One of the cross-rods of a ladder).  
**wry** (out of shape), distinguish from **rye** (grain).  
**wry'ness**, not *wriness* or *ryness*. The *w* is silent. See **W**.

## X

- x**. The letter **x** before accented *a*, *e*, *i* and *y* is pronounced as *z*; before unaccented *i*, as in *anxious*, *notious*, it is pronounced as *ksh* and before *u*, as in *flexure*. When final it is sometimes heard as in *box* (*hoks*) and sometimes silent, as in *billet-doux* (*bi'lay-do'*). See **RULES FOR SPELLING**, pp. 11-12.  
**xan'thin**, **xan'thine**. Both forms are in use. See **X** and **Z**.  
**Xan-tip'pe**, not *Zantippe*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**Xav'i-er**, not *Zavier*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**Xe'ni-a**, not *Zeenia*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**Xen'o-phon**, not *Zenophon*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**xe-roph'a-gy**, not *zeerofagy*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**xy'lo-graph**, not *zylograph*. See **X** and **Z**.  
**xy'lo-phone**, not *zylophone*. See **X** and **Z**.

## Y

- y**. The letter *y* is used as a consonant to indicate the sound heard in *yet*, and elsewhere as a vowel exactly like *i*. Some persons inject a *y* sound in certain words as *card*, *guard*—an absurdity, condemned as a "monster of pronunciation" as long ago as 1784. See **RULES FOR SPELLING**, pp. 11-12.  
**yacht**, not *yat* or *yot*. See **CH**.  
**yacht'ing**, not *yating* or *yotting*.  
**Yah-veh'**, **Yah-we'**, **Yah-weh'**. All forms are in use, but the first is preferred.  
**Yan'kee**, not *Yankey*.  
**Yates** (English family name of a distinguished editor and litterateur), distinguish from **Yeats** (Irish family name of a noted artist and a poet).  
**year** (a period of twelve months), distinguish from **ear** (an organ of hearing).

yeast (barm), not *yeest*. Distinguish from east (where the sun rises).

yeo'man, not *yo'man*. The *e* is silent. See E.

yew (an evergreen tree), distinguish from ewe (a female sheep), and from you (the personal pronoun of the second person plural construed frequently as a singular).

yield, not *yeeld* or *yeild*. See SILENT LETTERS, p. 2, and E and I.

yoak. Misspelling of *yolk*.

yoke (a bond), distinguish from yolk (the yellow of an egg).

yoke drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles *yoked*, *yok'ing*.

you. Distinguish from *ewe*, *yew*.

young, not *yung*.

your (belonging to you), distinguish from ewer (a water jug).

youse. Misspelling of *you*: a vulgarism that can not be too severely condemned.

There is "youse," for instance. On the broad avenues and boulevards of refined speech this enemy to better speech is never encountered. But in the byways and back alleys of speech intercourse it stalks about defiantly. Some persons who take pride in defending the under dog even in the realm of words tell us that "youse" is the pluralized form of "you," and so they incline to look with sympathy on this vagrant.—*The Detroit News*, July 15, 1921.

youth, not *yuth*—the *o* is silent.

youths, not *yuths*—the *o* is silent.

Y'pres. Note that the *y* in this name is sounded as *ee* and that the *s* is silent.

Yp'si-lan'ti, not *Ypsilante*.

Y'ser', not *Yzare* as it is pronounced.

yt-ter'bi-um, not *iterbium* as it is pronounced. The word is derived from *Ytterby*, a town in Sweden.

yt'tri-um, not *itrium* as it is pronounced.

Yu'ca-tan', not *Youcatan*.

yuc'ca, not *yukka*.

## Z

**z.** The letter *z* is the sign of a hissing or buzzing consonant, beginning a syllable, as in *zealous*, or closing a syllable, as in *buzz*. It indicates its own sound and that of *s* sounding as *z*, as in *zone*, *rose*, and a voiced *sh* as in *azure*. Compare *S*. Many words beginning with *x* are pronounced as if the initial letter were *z*. See *X*.

**Zam-be'zi, Zam-be'si.** Both forms are in use, but the first is preferred.

**zeal**, not *zeel*. The *a* is silent. See *SILENT LETTERS*, p. 1.

**ze'bra**, not *zeebra*.

**ze'brass**, not *zeebrass*.

**ze'bu**, not *zeebu*.

**zemst'vo** (a Russian provincial assembly), NOT *zemsvo*.

**ze'nith**, not *zeenith*.

**zeph'yr**, not *zefyr*.

**ze'ro**, not *zeero*.

**zig'zag** doubles the *g* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **zig'zagged**, **zig'zag'ging**.

**ziz'zle** (to make a spluttering sound as meat when broiled), distinguish from **siz'zle** (the effervescence of brisk beer, champagne, etc., through a cork).

**zo-ol'o-gy**, not *zoo-ology*.

**Zo'ro-as'ter**, not *Zoroastor*.

**Zo'ro-as'tri-an**, not *Zoroasterian*.

**zou-ave'**, not *zuave*.

**Zui'der Zee, Zuy'der Zee.** Both forms are in use.

**Zu'rich**. The *ch* is pronounced as *k*.

**zyx'om-ma**, not *zyzoma*.

**zyxt** (seest: a 13th century variant in Kentish dialect), distinguish from **sixth** (one of six equal parts).

**Zyz'yn** (a Polish town), not *Zyzin*.

**zyz'zle** drops the *e* before *-ed* and *-ing* in forming the participles **zyz'zled**, **zyz'zling**. Compare **SIZZLE**, **SIZZLE**.